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Your essential daily news | WEEKEND, MARCH 27-29, 2015

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Uber trying to woo Ottawa

TRANSPORTATION

Bylaws need updating, says company's Ontario GM



Joe Lofaro
Metro | Ottawa

Love 'em or hate 'em, ride-sharing services like Uber are here to stay, so municipalities like Ottawa should fix its taxi regulations now instead of trying to nickle-and-dime drivers, Uber Ontario's general manager said Thursday.

In a speech at the Economic Club of Canada luncheon, Ian Black argued the popular ride sharing business is legal in Ottawa, despite two independent Uber drivers pleading guilty for violating taxi bylaws that same afternoon.

"Uber and ride-sharing



Ian Black, Uber Ontario's GM.
JOE LOFARO/METRO

should be regulated in the City of Ottawa and in Canadian cities," he said. "But in order for this to work, regulations need to be updated to allow for technological innovations and allow for new business models."

So far, Black said he's had "a good discussion" with Mayor Jim Watson, and he has seen Coun. Diane Deans and Coun. Riley Brockington "show

leadership" in their support for a review of current taxi bylaws, scheduled for later this year.

He compared drivers working for Uber to make money to a small business using eBay as a platform to sell their products online.

"Slowly but surely, we are seeing Canadian city councils warm to this idea," Black said.

Meanwhile, drivers are continuing to be caught in the crosshairs of undercover bylaw officers looking to make a quick \$400. But the sting operations haven't deterred part-time Uber drivers like Brian McGregor, a federal public servant by day, who listened to Black's speech at the Westin Hotel.

He asked not to have his face photographed out of fear of receiving more threats from taxi proponents.

"I think they're wasteful, I think there's much better ways that scarce city resources could be employed," he said following the luncheon.

"We've got gang activity problems here, we've got homeless problems. (Uber) is something that many, many people want. It's not impacting anyone negatively."

Amrik Singh, president of the Unifor Local 1688 — the union for Ottawa's taxi drivers — said the two guilty pleas demonstrate Uber is operating illegally in the city.



HAMBURGLAR COOKED

Ottawa Senators goalie Andrew Hammond, nicknamed the "Hamburglar," stands in his crease after allowing the New York Rangers fifth goal on Thursday night. The Sens lost 5-1. **More coverage, page 37.** ADRIAN WYLD/THE CANADIAN PRESS

+ RESPONSE

City says operating without a licence is illegal

In an email statement to Metro, senior legal counsel for the City of Ottawa Stuart Huxley said providing Uber service without a license violates municipal bylaws and is, by all means, illegal. "Uber drivers have ap-

peared before the courts through legal counsel and have entered unequivocal admissions of guilt that the conduct was illegal.

"The court accepted these guilty pleas and has registered convictions in relation to the illegal activity," wrote Huxley.

MORE COVERAGE, PAGE 5

MEGA AUTOMOBILE



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\$33 weekly \$6,560  2010 Accent SE St#36489 load, a/c, 93,007km	\$40 weekly \$7,900  2009 Elantra St#35303 load, a/c, 76,685km	\$35 weekly \$6,940  2011 Swift Plus St#N14493A a/c, 82,942 km	\$50 weekly \$9,980  2011 Aveo St#36170 a/c, roof, auto, 34,006km	\$95 weekly \$21,840  2012 Camaro St#36333 V6, load 25,612km	\$48 weekly \$9,650  2010 Mazda 3 St#36043 load, a/c, 106,131km
\$49 weekly \$9,850  2011 Elantra Touring St#36384 load, a/c, auto, 96,146km	\$49 weekly \$9,870  2011 Fiesta SE St#35182 load, a/c, mags, 91,687km	\$48 weekly \$10,950  2010 Chrysler Sebring St#36355A V6, Auto, 69,265km	\$45 weekly \$8,990  2010 Honda Fit DX St#35696 std, 107,524km	\$30 weekly \$5,980  2009 Rio LX St#36189 std, 105,000km	\$50 weekly \$9,995  2009 Mazda 6 St#34813 load, a/c, mags, 102,711km



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METRO ON THE STREET

Fans have their say

We asked Senators fans in the downtown on Thursday whether they agreed with the team to hold off on the rebirth of Sens Mile:

“

They’re full of it. Spirit’s what it’s all about. Put them up; that’s my opinion.

Josh Smith, referring to the team’s decision

“

The signs might put way more pressure on them than they already have. Wait until it’s in the bag.

Dan Meloche

“

It’s a little early for me. You never know. It would be embarrassing if they didn’t win and had to take them down.

Michelle Nadon



A Senators fan celebrates the eventual game-winning goal by Ottawa’s Alex Chiasson against the San Jose Sharks on Monday. SEAN KILPATRICK/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Hey city hall: No jinxin’ the Sens

NHL

Team president wants Sens Mile reserved for playoffs



The Ottawa city councillor who pushed for the early opening of the Sens Mile is fine to hold off on the Elgin Street signs for now.

After city councillors en-



Senators President Cyril M. Leeder TREVOR GREENWAY/METRO

thusiastically agreed to prematurely install the trademark signs on Wednesday, the Ottawa Senators sent a letter ask-

ing the city to wait.

Rick Chiarelli, the College Ward representative who submitted the motion to install the signs on Elgin Street “immediately,” said he did not speak to the Senators ahead of time but was trying to honour the team’s “historic run” and pump up hockey spirit.

Some people were worried that opening up the Sens Mile early would curse the team’s chances of clinching a play-off spot.

“I’m not that superstitious so I didn’t take the threat of a jinx all that seriously,” said Chiarelli. “But as the talk of the spectre of a jinx grew over the past 12 hours, I’ve seen people see it as very real. So if they want me to be superstitious, I will.”

In February, the Senators’ shot at a playoff spot looked slim. The team was 14 points out but made an impressive comeback over 20 games.

Traditionally, the Sens Mile opens during playoffs. In the letter to city council on Thursday, Ottawa Senators president Cyril M. Leeder said he wants to honour that tradition.

“We appreciate the enthusiasm and support that council has shown for the Senators with today’s motion to open the Sens Mile early,” reads the

letter.

“However, we would respectfully request that we hold off on this until the team officially qualifies for a playoff spot. When we do, we will be happy to take part in an official ceremony with the mayor, council and local businesses.”

Chiarelli urged fans to keep up the Sens fever — signs or no signs.

“We have to do whatever we can to help the Senators as they try to make the playoffs and try to extend their streak,” he stressed.

If the signs go up again, it will not be until playoffs start in mid-April.

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CRIME

Bandits rob store of smokes, chocolates

Police in Ottawa are asking for the public's help in identifying two men who recently robbed a convenience store of cash, cigarettes — and yes, even chocolate bars.

The armed robbery happened at about 2:45 a.m. on March 20 at a store along the 800 block of Meadowlands Drive near Prince of



Police are trying to find these two men. COURTESY OTTAWA POLICE

Wales Drive.

Police say one of the suspects had a gun, the other a knife, and they demanded money from the person working behind the counter.

No one was injured.

Police say both men are in their early to mid-20s and tall.

The robber holding the knife had a thin build and was wearing grey jogging pants and a dark-blue wind-breaker with grey stripes along the sleeves.

The robber carrying the gun was dressed in black, with black mitts and a white scarf around his face. He also spoke Somali.

Anyone with information is asked to call Crime Stoppers or Ottawa police at 613-236-1222, ext. 5116.

METRO

IN BRIEF

Routine police traffic stop led to drug bust, OPP say

Provincial police say what started as a traffic stop for a vehicle with a noisy muffler ended in a drug bust.

OPP officers were conducting a traffic enforcement blitz in Ottawa (on the Castlefrank eastbound on-ramp to Highway 417) on Wednesday when they stopped a vehicle with an extremely loud exhaust.

It's alleged that as the officers were investigating the vehicle, they found cocaine and ecstasy.

Jasdeep Singh Grewal, 19, faces two drug-trafficking charges along with an improper muffler charge. He's scheduled to appear in court on the charges on May 12.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Police seek two suspects in southeast break-in case

The Ottawa police are trying to identify two men that were involved in a break-in that took place in southeast Ottawa earlier this month.

The men stole tools and caused significant damage to the business' property.

The first man is described as white with a stocky build and short hair. He was wearing blue jeans as well as a dark jacket.

The second man is also white and was wearing a reflective construction jacket, a dark tuque and dark pants.

Anyone with information is asked to contact Ottawa Police.

METRO



The Ottawa Police Guns and Gangs Unit investigates a disturbance in 2013. A project aimed at preventing young people from joining their siblings in gangs will receive partial funding from a campaign run by Algonquin College students. METRO

Students help fund anti-crime projects

ALGONQUIN COLLEGE

Campaign aims to raise \$23,000 in 2015 for John Howard Society



Joe Lofaro
Metro | Ottawa

A project aimed at preventing young people from joining their siblings who are involved in gang activity will receive partial funding from a campaign run by students in Algonquin College's public-relations program.

The annual Let's Unlock Change campaign launched

this week and is hoping to raise \$23,000 this year to benefit the John Howard Society of Ottawa (JHS), which provides services to help reduce crime rates and victimization.

Students will host 13 fundraising events through April 14, including an '80s night at The Royal Oak at 188 Bank St. on Friday.

One of the projects set to receive funding is called Supporting Families: A Coordinated Response to Preventing Gang Involvement for Siblings at Risk.

It's one of the initiatives promoted by Crime Prevention Ottawa in their recent progress report on Ottawa's gang strategy.

The project is operated by

the guiding principle that police and community organizations need to work together to prevent youth from joining gangs and to support families whose children have already joined a life of crime.

Christine MacIntosh, JHS director of child and youth services, said early intervention is key to ensure younger children don't make the same mistakes their older siblings make, especially in lower-income families.

"A lot of individuals that are involved in criminal behaviour are marginalized and come from poverty, so (for) these families and the siblings, often there are barriers to access services," said MacIntosh.

Families supported by the

program can receive bus tickets or financial support to join extracurricular activities, for example.

The project is only about six months old and is run by existing frontline JHS workers.

Catherine Latimer, CEO of the society, said she was "honoured" to be selected for the fundraiser.

"We have very loyal donors, but we don't generate a lot of revenues for the needs that are out there. This will help us meet needs," she said.

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Uber drivers plead guilty

CITY BYLAWS

Two nabbed for unlicensed taxis the latest to be fined



Lucy Scholey
Metro | Ottawa

Two more Uber drivers pleaded guilty to driving unlicensed taxis in Ottawa, on Thursday – the same day the Ontario general manager of the rideshare company spoke at a luncheon in the city.

Wilmond Celiba, 41, and Sedik Said, 22, both entered guilty pleas for offering taxi services last fall without licences. In a joint submission by the city's counsel and the defence lawyer, the drivers must each pay \$400 fines.

In light of the guilty plea, a second charge against Celiba was dropped.

Six more Uber drivers also faced charges on Thursday. Two charges against one driver were



Amrik Singh, president of Ottawa's taxi union, speaks to reporters with fellow union members Thursday after two Uber drivers pleaded guilty to operating unlicensed taxis. LUCY SCHOLEY/METRO

dropped because his tickets were not signed.

Charges for the remaining five drivers have been deferred to April 23.

If Thursday's fines are not enough to deter the two de-

fendants from driving unlicensed taxis, then they could face heavier consequences next time, suggested City of Ottawa counsel Stuart Huxley.

"At this point, I have accepted the guilty plea, the

court has accepted it and we hope that these individuals won't be before the court again," he said outside court.

The fines can climb as high as \$100,000.

Amrik Singh, president of

the Unifor Local 1688 — the union for Ottawa's taxi drivers — said the guilty pleas demonstrate Uber is operating illegally in the city.

"Their partners are pleading guilty.... They are breaking City of Ottawa bylaws," he said. "What we're saying is, anybody who has to come here to do business has to follow the laws. It has to be a level playing field, so Uber must follow the laws."

Ian Black, Uber's general manager of Ontario, also spoke to the Economic Club of Canada on Thursday.

Apart from these pleas, 15 drivers have pleaded guilty to 29 charges. They paid \$12,865 in fines.

52

The City of Ottawa has laid 52 charges against 25 individual Uber drivers since the company started its UberX rideshare service in October 2014.

IN BRIEF

Driver kicks out windshield to escape after fuel tanker rollover

A fuel tanker rollover closed traffic in both directions on Alti Place Thursday afternoon after the 28-year-old driver lost control of the vehicle near Moodie Drive.

The city's Hazmat team cleaned up a diesel spill from the tanker. A few businesses on Alti Place were affected as no one could leave until the cleanup was done, which took several hours.

The driver managed to kick out the windshield of the vehicle before paramedics arrived.

He was in stable condition in hospital Thursday and was being treated for a head injury and cuts and bruises.

HALEY RITCHIE/METRO



METRO FILE

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POLITICS A NEW, TINY ADDITION TO THE FAMILY Justice Minister Peter MacKay is going to be a dad again. His wife, Nazanin Afshin-Jam, announced on Twitter Thursday that the family is expecting a second baby — a girl. MacKay and Afshin-Jam also have a boy, Kian Alexander, shown in his arms in this photo from last year. JEFF HARPER/METRO IN HALIFAX

Electricity bills to rise \$120 annually

ENERGY

Families will pay about \$10 extra a month, says minister

Energy Minister Bob Chiarelli says the average residential electricity bill will still go up about \$120 a year despite his announcement Thursday of other planned reductions.

The increase will occur because of the Liberal government's decision to eliminate the Clean Energy Benefit, which provided an average monthly reduction of \$17 a month.

"We are expecting it to go up less than \$10 a month," Chiarelli acknowledged to reporters after announcing two other moves to cut costs for customers — the elimination of a debt retirement charge and a new program to cut prices for low-income families.

The proposed average reduc-



Hydro power lines are shown in this file photo.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

tion for residential customers from those moves will be \$6.

"It a shell game," said Tory energy critic John Yakabuski.

"No one is arguing that low-income families don't need a break but what this government doesn't understand is that the cost of electricity is becoming unaffordable for everyone," Yakabuski said.

Chiarelli said the proposed Ontario Electricity Support Program will slash the monthly electricity rate for a low-income family by \$20 to \$50

a month.

Under the plan, a family of four with an annual income of less than \$28,000 would be eligible for a \$38 monthly credit for a total of \$456 per year.

"For many low-income Ontarians paying their monthly electricity bill is a real challenge. In comparison to other residential consumers in the province, low-income Ontarians spend a proportionally higher percentage of their income on electricity per month," Chiarelli said.

"Families and households should not have to choose between turning on the lights and putting food on the table."

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

+ SIGN OF RELIEF

Tax credit creates savings for low-income families

The minister said the Ontario Electricity Support Program is expected to take effect Jan. 1, 2016.



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Easter Service

Good Friday, April 3
On Good Friday a Sunday service will operate, so only those routes that normally run on Sundays will be in service.

Easter Monday, April 6
Service will be reduced on most express (green) and peak period (red) routes, as well as routes 1, 4, 5, 7, 8, 12, 14, 16, 85, 87, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 101, 105, 111, 114, 129, and 172. In addition, the scheduled arrival times of all routes may vary on Easter Monday. **Route 201 will operate.** The **O-Train** schedule will be unchanged.

All routes numbered in the 600s and supplementary school trips will **not** operate on either holiday. **Route 196 will not** operate Good Friday, Easter Sunday and Easter Monday.

Easter holiday schedules are available at octranspo.com and octranspo.mobi. You can also check when your bus will arrive by calling 613-560-1000 or texting 560560 plus your 4-digit bus stop number.

Holiday Office Hours
Sales and Information Centres
OC Transpo offices will be closed Good Friday, Easter Sunday and Easter Monday, except the Rideau Centre office which will be open on Easter Monday from 8:30 a.m. to 9 p.m.

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Customer Relations will be closed.

A DayPass can be used as a Family DayPass on Saturdays, Sundays and statutory holidays, including Good Friday. A DayPass costs \$8.10 on the bus.

Para Transpo Para Transpo will operate a holiday service on Good Friday and Easter Monday. Regular scheduled trips are automatically cancelled. Passengers may start booking trips one week prior to the holiday by calling 613-244-7272. On Easter Sunday, regular scheduled trips are not cancelled.

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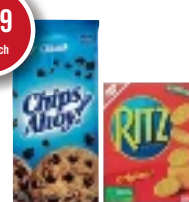
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Experts to probe flaws in federal buildings

SECURITY

Identifying vulnerabilities key to threat resistance

Nicholas Hodge
Metro | Ottawa

The Government of Canada hopes to make federal buildings in the Ottawa area more resistant to threats such as the shooting on Parliament Hill last October by hiring experts to find flaws in their security.

A request was sent out by Public Works this week seeking contractors that can identify how vulnerable buildings are to safety risks like terrorist attacks, demonstrations and accidental destruction.

They will also assess the likelihood of each threat event and the potential impact it could have on human life and gov-

ernment assets. After evaluating the current security situations, experts will be asked to recommend safeguards.

Along with introducing new safeguards, the contractors will point out current security measures they find unnecessary. These measures may be eliminated to save money and resources. The threat and risk assessments are planned for all buildings owned and leased by the Canadian government in the Ottawa area.

According to Pierre-Alain Bujold, a spokesman for Public Works, this is "not a response to recent events," but rather a planned five-year cycle for federal facilities. He also stated that no buildings are being prioritized at this time.

Public Works can't say how much the project will cost.

Applicants are being asked to make offers for their pay and the selected contractors will propose expenses for the installation, modifications or removal of safeguards later on.



An RCMP intervention team runs next to a Parliament building during the shootings on Oct. 22, 2014. THE CANADIAN PRESS

CRIME

Former 67's D-man arrested at casino

Former Ottawa 67's defenceman Nick Boynton has been placed on a leave of absence by the Phoenix Coyotes after being involved in a disturbance at the casino in Buffalo while in town for Thursday night's game against the Sabres.

Buffalo Police Department spokesman Michael DeGeorge said Thursday the 36-year-old former NHL player was "in police custody" at Erie County Medical Center in Buffalo.

DeGeorge says Boynton was arrested following an overnight incident at the Buffalo Creek Casino.

The police spokesman said charges were "being finalized at this time" but declined to give details of what happened.

Boynton joined the Coyotes' broadcast team in July 2014 after an 11-season career as a defenceman for six teams, including Arizona.

Nick Boynton
THE CANADIAN PRESS

IN BRIEF

Ontario bill would make conversion therapy illegal

Ontario's health minister says he is going to ask the province's doctors' college to explore explicit bans on so-called conversion therapy.

NDP MPP Cheri DiNovo has introduced a private member's bill to make it illegal to attempt to change

the sexual orientation or gender identity of someone aged 18 and under through therapy.

Health Minister Eric Hoskins says he welcomes DiNovo's bill, though the practice would already be considered professional misconduct and a violation of the Ontario human rights code. THE CANADIAN PRESS



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Province to review policies on solitary confinement in jail

MENTAL HEALTH

Of about 7,700 in custody in Ontario, 5% are segregated

Ontario is launching a review of the solitary confinement policy in provincial jails.

The Ministry of Community Safety and Correctional Services review will look at how seg-

regation practices interact with other mental health policies.

Consultations with mental health experts, civil liberty groups, correctional staff and others are set to begin this summer.

Minister Yasir Naqvi said he hopes the process will be complete within a year but it's partly dependent on the bargaining process with public sector workers that is already underway.

He said the several months

it will take before a consultation process is started is for "preparatory work."

"In order for us to do proper consultation we need to make sure that we do important background work," he said.

On any given day about 7,700 people are in custody in Ontario's 26 institutions and about five per cent are in segregation, the ministry said.

All inmates placed in segregation have their placement reviewed after 24 hours and every five days thereafter, Naqvi said.

"We will obviously continue to follow those important guidelines, but we wanted to make sure that as part of ... making sure that we are providing the right supports for inmates with mental health challenges, to ensure safety of our staff and inmates that we do a comprehensive review of our segregation policy," he said.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



Segregated inmate status is reviewed after 24 hours and then every five days. METRO FILE

+ ASHLEY SMITH

A coroner's inquest last year into the death of Ashley Smith, 19, in an Ontario women's prison recommended that the Correctional Service of Canada abolish indefinite solitary confinement and prohibit placement of women in segregation for longer than 15 days.



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The World Wildlife Fund's annual Earth Hour event has less of an impact than it used to, officials say. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Darkness falls across the land

ENVIRONMENT

But Earth Hour is losing its impact, according to one councillor

It'll still be lights off at Parliament Hill on Saturday evening for the World Wildlife Fund's annual Earth Hour event, but city officials and hydro operators say the event has less of an impact than it used to.

Coun. David Chernushenko, chair of the city's environment committee, said he encouraged the committee to take a slightly different approach to Earth Hour this year.

While the lights will still be turned off in city buildings Saturday night from 8:30 to 9:30 p.m., the focus is shifting towards promoting a general conversation about conserving energy.

"The novelty starts to wear off after a while for people," said Chernushenko, who said he still feels the event is important.

The city will be participating by turning off lights and screens, and issued a news release with environmental tips.

"Yes, great, turn off the lights, turn off the power, but maybe during that hour have a conversation about what can we do to make sure we're not just keeping the lights off for an hour," Chernushenko said.

Hydro Ottawa doesn't track the change in numbers for Earth Hour, but Ontario's Independent Electricity System Operator confirmed that participation in the province has decreased over the years.

After it began in 2007, the event would reduce energy use by around five per cent, but over the past few years its impact has slipped to less than three per cent, according to the operator's numbers.

HALEY RITCHIE/METRO

+ IN THE CLASSROOM

Since Earth Hour falls on a Saturday, Ottawa schools choosing to participate will do so at varying times on Friday and Monday.

Classrooms celebrate

in various way according to the public school board, including "dimming lights, discussing reducing, reusing, recycling, rethinking and recharging."

IN BRIEF

Major travel show in Ottawa this weekend

Exhibitors from all over the world will show Ottawa residents wishing for sunny days why they should visit their country at the Travel and Vacation Show this weekend at the Shaw Centre.

More than 190 exhibitions from 50 countries will be at the event. Chefs representing Aruba, Japan

and Korea will hold demonstrations allowing potential vacationers to get a taste of each country's cuisine. Several cruise lines will also send representatives to appeal to ocean lovers.

The Travel and Vacation Show runs Saturday and Sunday between 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. and admission is \$10.

METRO

Provincial education funding to remain at \$22.5B

Funding for Ontario schools for the 2015-16 year will remain stable at \$22.5 billion, but Education Minister Liz Sandals says more money is being spent per student due to declining enrolment.

Sandals says the Liberal government will continue to encourage Ontario's 72 school boards to shift their focus from main-

taining underused facilities to improving student programming and updating schools.

Sandals says 600 of the province's almost 5,000 schools are operating at less than half capacity.

She says the ministry recognizes that in some areas — such as rural and northern Ontario — consolidation of schools isn't possible.

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Taiwan, Israel top sponsored MP trips

POLITICS

Commissioner releases MP travel arranged by outside orgs

Sixty MPs declared 86 free trips — courtesy of advocacy organizations, business groups and foreign embassies — worth a total of \$442,524 last year, according to a summary of sponsored travel reports released Thursday by Conflict of Interest and Ethics Commissioner Mary Dawson.

The most popular destinations for travel junkets in 2014 were Taiwan, which received 17 visits, and Israel, which was frequented 12 times.

MPs are required to disclose travel worth more than \$500 — and paid for by someone other than the federal government, political parties, inter-parliamentary associations or the MPs themselves — to the commissioner within 60 days.

NDP Leader Thomas Mulcair travelled to Las Vegas with his executive assistant George



NDP leader Thomas Mulcair travelled to Las Vegas to speak at a labour conference, paid for by the United Steelworkers International. He was among 60 MPs who took trips on others' dimes.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

+ BACKGROUND

Keeping it legal

MPs are required to disclose travel worth more than \$500 — and paid for by someone other than the federal government, political parties, inter-parliamentary associations or the MPs themselves — to the Conflict of Interest and Ethics Commissioner within 60 days.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICES

Smith to speak at the convention for the United Steelworkers International, from Aug. 11 to 12, 2014. The union covered \$2,915 in travel costs.

Liberal MP Irwin Cotler travelled to Israel to address a counterterrorism conference in Herzliya from Sept. 4 to 12, 2014. The university IDC Herzliya covered \$5,219 in travel costs.

NDP MP Paul Dewar attended the Vienna Conference on the Humanitarian Impact of Nuclear Weapons from Dec. 6 to 9, 2014. The Friedrich-Ebert Foundation

covered \$2,105 in travel costs.

Liberal MP Stéphane Dion travelled to Spain, visiting Barcelona, Madrid and Tarragona, to participate on multiple panels at a conference from Mar. 8 to 13, 2014. La Fundacion Canada and Federalistes d'Esquerres covered \$2,947 in travel costs.

Conservative MP James Rajotte travelled to Ghana "to experience realities, opportunities and challenges" in the country from July 14 to 24, 2014. Engineers Without Borders Canada covered \$3,629 in travel costs.

Conservative MP Barry Devolin travelled to Seoul, South Korea from March 9 to 22, 2014, first as part of the official delegation with Prime Minister Stephen Harper and then stayed on for work in his role as co-chair of the Canada-Korea Interparliamentary Friendship Group. Devolin declared \$1,077 worth of hotel accommodations from Korean businesswoman Hoon Park and \$658 worth of ground transportation from Korean businessman Byong Gil Suh. He paid his own way home.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICES

GUN REGISTRY

Supreme Court to rule on gun data

The Harper government may be headed for another political collision with the Supreme Court of Canada, which is set to rule Friday on the fate of Quebec's gun registry data.

The Conservatives abolished the registry for long guns in February 2011, fulfilling a five-year-old campaign promise after forming a majority government.

They also ordered that all data collected by the provinces be destroyed — a decision the Quebec government went to court to overturn.

A Quebec judge originally granted the province's request to preserve the data, calling it a constitutional infringement to destroy it. But that decision was overturned by the Quebec Court of Appeal, which said there was no constitutional violation in the federal order to destroy the data.

Jeremy Laurin, a spokesman for Public Safety Minister Steven Blaney, defended the government's decision to seek to have the gun registry data destroyed.

"It would be dangerous for our law enforcement to rely on outdated and obsolete information to conduct their operations," Laurin said in a statement.

He reiterated the government's oft-repeated position that the registry was wasteful and that the government "will always stand up for law-abiding hunters, farmers and sport shooters."

Friday's ruling deals with a narrow legal issue: the Quebec government isn't taking issue

with Ottawa's jurisdiction to get rid of the long gun registry, only the provision to destroy the data.

Quebec is arguing that the registry was a joint effort between the provinces and the federal government, giving it the right to keep the data.

Under the registry, a lone federal registrar was responsible for issuing a certificate for each firearm. The registrar worked in conjunction with the various chief firearms officers in each province who would issue gun owners their possession licences, as well as authorizations to carry and transport long guns.

They all had access to Canadian Firearms Information System, where all the information was stored and maintained by the RCMP.

The long-gun registry was borne of demands for stricter gun control in the wake of the massacre of 14 women at Montreal's Ecole Polytechnique in December 1989.

It's not the first time the gun registry has found itself the subject of debate at the high court.

After the Liberal government of the day established the registry in 1998, Alberta appealed to the Supreme Court saying Ottawa did not have the jurisdiction to impose such a measure on the province.

In 2000, the high court ruled unanimously that the federal government did in fact have to the right to enact a gun registry.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

+ BACKGROUND

Supreme Court controversy

Once again the Supreme Court will find itself ruling on a key area of the government's agenda.

The court has ruled against Conservative policy in a number of key areas, including rejecting the ap-

pointment of Quebec judge Marc Nadon to its ranks, rejecting Parliament's right to reform the Senate on its own and upholding the right of Vancouver's Insite safe-injection facility to stay open despite government opposition. THE CANADIAN PRESS



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MPs told ISIL mission will need more time: Sources

IRAQ AND SYRIA

Military official said only 650 Kurds have been trained

The training of Kurdish peshmerga fighters has been a slow undertaking that could mean Canada's mission in Iraq and Syria will take more than a year, The Canadian Press has learned.

That was the message officials from the Canadian Forces and Foreign Affairs delivered behind closed doors Wednesday to the main critics of the New Democrats and the Liberals.

The briefing included an officer who currently oversees the strategic joint staff, the military's nerve centre. Neither Defence Minister Jason Kenney nor Foreign Affairs Minister Rob Nicholson were present.

Maj.-Gen. Mike Hood, who

will soon become the commander of the air force, told the briefing that only 650 peshmerga fighters have been trained since a contingent of 69 elite Canadian commandos deployed to northern Iraq last September, according to multiple sources with knowledge of what was said in the room.

The MPs were told that "this was not a one-year undertaking by any stretch of the imagination, that it will take multiple years," said one source, who insisted on anonymity.

Hood tried to reassure the politicians that CF-18 jet fighters would be able to conduct precision strikes on moving and static targets inside Syria — one objective of a controversial motion by the Harper government.

Sources said Hood told those gathered that the Canadians would get accurate strike information from intelligence and surveillance platforms but did not say how the intelligence would be gathered.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



Defence Minister Jason Kenney speaks with the media Wednesday in the foyer of the House of Commons. The training of Kurdish fighters has been slow, which could mean Canada's mission in Iraq may take more than a year, according to sources. ADRIAN WYLD/THE CANADIAN PRESS

ANTI-TERROR BILL

Ex-spymaster says activists need not fret

Many demonstrators are flattering themselves when they publicly fret about coming under the scrutiny of security services, says a former spymaster.

Ray Boisvert said Thursday the Canadian Security Intelligence Service (CSIS) had the resources to monitor only those threats "in the red, high-risk, high-probability zone" when he served as the agency's assistant director of intelligence earlier this decade.

"That meant that we had no time to even consider looking at any sort of lesser evils that were emerging out there," Boisvert told the House of Commons public-

safety committee, which is studying a sweeping new security bill.

Boisvert, now a security consultant, said he takes "great offence" to commonly voiced concerns that the legislation would effectively place legitimate protest under the CSIS lens, adding that groups and individuals "should not flatter yourself to that degree."

Boisvert and David Harris, another retired CSIS officer, backed a legislative proposal to allow the spy agency to actively derail terror plots — not just gather information about them.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

DEFENCE

Budget watchdog says military costs unsustainable

The Harper government has built a military that it cannot afford and will be forced to make tough choices in the future, the country's budget watchdog said Thursday.

The new assessment by the parliamentary budget office came as debate kicked off in the House of Com-

mons about an expanded and extended war against the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant.

Jean-Denis Frechette, the parliamentary budget officer, says the federal government will need to either pour more money into its defence budget, scale back its ambitions or do a mixture of both.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

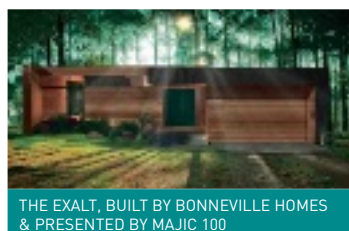
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Investigators carry boxes from the apartment of Germanwings airliner jet co-pilot Andreas Lubitz, in Duesseldorf, Germany, Thursday. MARTIN MEISSNER/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Co-pilot crashed plane on purpose

FLIGHT 9525

Some airlines get stricter on cockpit rules

Passengers with moments to live screamed in terror and the pilot frantically pounded on the locked cockpit door as a 27-year-old German co-pilot deliberately and wordlessly smashed an Airbus carrying 150 people into an Alpine mountainside.

The account Thursday of the final moments of Germanwings Flight 9525 prompted some airlines to immediately impose stricter cockpit rules — and raised haunting questions about the motive of the co-pilot, whose breathing never wavered as he destroyed the plane and the lives of those aboard.

“We have no idea of the reason,” Marseille Prosecutor Brice Robin said, revealing the chilling conclusions investigators

reached after reconstructing the final minutes of the flight from the plane’s black box voice recorder. Co-pilot Andreas Lubitz’s intention was “to destroy this plane.”

French, German and U.S. officials said there was no indication of terrorism. The prosecutor did not elaborate on why investigators do not suspect a political motive; instead they’re focusing on the co-pilot’s “personal, family and professional environment” to try to determine why he did it.

German Chancellor Angela Merkel, whose nation lost 75 people on the flight, said the conclusions brought the tragedy to a “new, simply incomprehensible dimension.” Devastated families of victims visited the crash scene Thursday, looking across a windy mountain meadow toward where their loved ones died.

The Airbus A320 was flying from Barcelona to Duesseldorf on Tuesday when it lost radio contact with air traffic con-

trollers and began plunging from its cruising altitude of 38,000 feet, before slamming into the mountainside eight minutes later.

The prosecutor laid out in horrifying detail the final sounds heard in the cockpit extracted from the mangled voice recorder.

Lubitz, courteous in the first part of the trip, became “curt” when the captain began the mid-flight briefing on the planned landing, Robin said.

The pilot, who has not been identified, left the cockpit for an apparent bathroom break, and Lubitz took control of the jet.

He suddenly started a manual descent, and the pilot started knocking on the door.

There was no response. “It was absolute silence in the cockpit,” the prosecutor said — except for the steady breathing he said indicated Lubitz was not panicked, and acted in a calm, deliberate manner.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEW YORK CITY

Fire, building collapse injures 2 critically

A building on fire near New York University collapsed on Thursday, and at least two people were critically injured, firefighters said.

Orange flames and black smoke billowed from the facade and roof of the five-story building in Manhattan, near several NYU buildings and the Washington Square Park area. Flames were

spreading to other buildings.

Investigators were looking into whether there had been a gas leak. There were some reports of an explosion before the fire.

The area was being evacuated, and other people were being evaluated at the scene.

Freelance photographer Mi-

chael Seto, who lives about 1-1/2 blocks away, said he was having lunch around 3:20 p.m.

“I could feel the boom in my apartment, and it short of shook,” he said.

He grabbed his camera, ran outside and found a crowd gathering, looking at a brick tenement-style building with a res-

taurant on the first floor.

“By the second story, the front part of the building, the facade, the first and second stories, it looked like, had collapsed into the street,” he said.

Rubble was on the sidewalk, and glass and debris had been flung across an avenue.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



A building burns after an explosion on 2nd Avenue on Thursday in New York City. ANDREW BURTON/GETTY IMAGES

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CONFLICT

Gazans committed war crimes: Amnesty

The human rights group Amnesty International said in a report Thursday that Palestinian militants committed war crimes during the 2014 Gaza conflict by killing both Israeli and Palestinian civilians using indiscriminate projectiles.

The report comes after two other reports issued in late 2014 that accused Israel of war crimes for attacks on multistory civilian buildings and Palestinian homes during the war.

The 50-day Gaza war left more than 2,100 Palestinians dead, mostly civilians, according to Palestinian and U.N. officials. On the Israeli side, 66 soldiers and six civilians were killed.

Palestinian militants, including the armed wing of Hamas, launched unguided rockets and mortars from civilian areas toward other civilian areas, a breach of international law, the human rights group said.

The report also alleged other international humanitarian law violations during the conflict, including Palestinian militant groups' storing munitions in civilian buildings and United Nations schools, and launching attacks near locations where hundreds of displaced civilians were taking shelter.

"The devastating impact of Israeli attacks on Palestinian civilians during the conflict is undeniable, but violations by one side in a conflict can never justify violations by their opponents," said Philip Luther of Amnesty International.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Unrest grows in Yemen as Saudis, allies plan invasion

MIDDLE EAST

Houthi leader defiant under air strikes

The turmoil in Yemen grew into a regional conflict Thursday, with Saudi Arabia and its allies bombing Shiite rebels allied with Iran, while Egyptian officials said a ground assault will follow the airstrikes.

Iran denounced the Saudi-led air campaign, saying it "considers this action a dangerous step," and oil prices jumped in New York and London after the offensive.

The military action turned impoverished and chaotic Yemen into a new front in the rivalry between Saudi Arabia and Iran.

Yemen's U.S.-backed President Abed-Rabbo Mansour Hadi, who fled the country Wednesday as the rebels, known as Houthis, advanced on his stronghold in the southern port of Aden, reappeared Thursday.

He arrived by plane in Saudi Arabia's capital of Riyadh, Saudi state TV reported.

Starting before dawn, Saudi warplanes pounded an air base, military bases and anti-aircraft positions in the capital of Sanaa and flattened a number of homes near the airport, killing at least 18 civilians, including six children. Another round followed in the evening, again rocking the city.



Shiite rebels, known as Houthis, hold up their weapons Thursday to protest against Saudi-led air strikes, as they chant slogans during a rally in Sanaa, Yemen. HANI MOHAMMED/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Yemenis won't accept such humiliation.

Abdul-Malik al-Houthi, leader of the Houthi Yemeni Shiite rebels



"evil."

The Houthis, who have taken over much of the country, mobilized thousands of supporters to protest the airstrikes, with

one speaker lashing out at the Saudi-led coalition and warning that Yemen "will be the tomb" of the aggressors.

White House spokesman Eric

Schultz told reporters on Air Force One en route to Alabama that President Barack Obama had authorized logistical and intelligence support for the strikes, but that the U.S. is not joining with direct military action.

In the air assault codenamed "Operation Decisive Storm," Saudi Arabia deployed some 100 fighter jets, 150,000 soldiers and other navy units, Saudi-owned Al-Arabiya TV reported.

Also involved were aircraft from the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Qatar, Kuwait, Jordan, Morocco, Sudan and Egypt, though it was not clear which carried out actual strikes.

Once the airstrikes have weakened the rebels and their allies in the military forces loyal to former President Ali Abdullah Saleh, a ground invasion of Yemen is planned by Egyptian, Saudi and other forces.

The assault will come from Saudi Arabia and by landings on Yemen's coasts along the Red and Arabian seas, according to three Egyptian military and security officials.

Three to five Egyptian troop carriers are stationed offshore, they said, although the number of troops was not specified, and the timing of the operation was not given.

The aim is not to occupy Yemen but to weaken the Houthis and their allies until they enter negotiations for power-sharing, the officials said, speaking on condition of anonymity. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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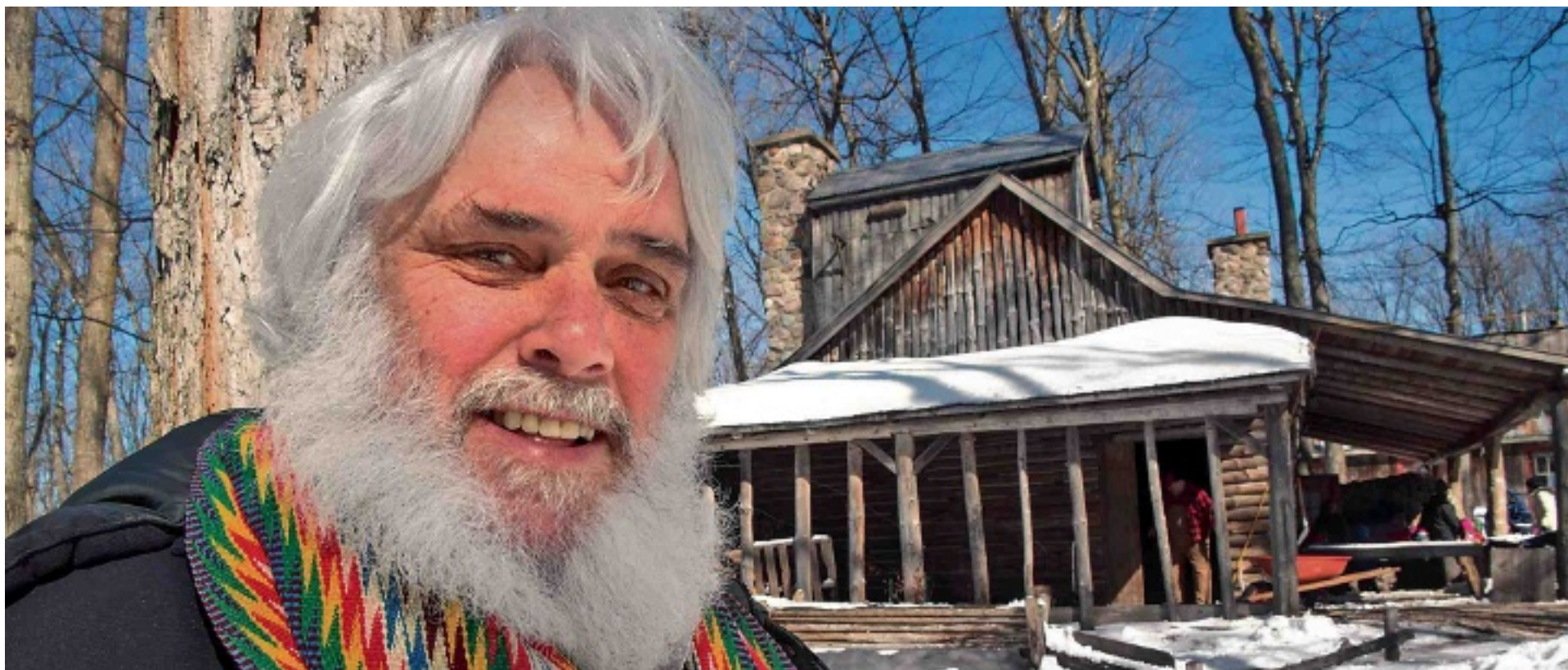
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Pierre Faucher, owner of Sucrerie de la Montagne in Rigaud, Que., is seen at his sugar shack Tuesday where he boils the sap over a wood fire. PAUL CHIASSON/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Long winter slows maple business

SEASONAL INDUSTRIES

Producers need warmer weather to get the sap flowing

Just like any other crop, maple syrup is at the mercy of Mother Nature, and the frigid winter hasn't been kind to Canadian sugar bush owners.

Many producers, like Ray Bonenberg of Mapleside Sugar

Bush south of Pembroke, Ont., are keeping a close eye on the thermometer and anxiously waiting for a stretch of warmer days to get the sap flowing.

"I've been tapping all day, drilling holes and tapping, and it's running on the south side of the tree but not on the north side of the tree. It's too cold," said Bonenberg, who is also president of the Ontario Maple Syrup Producers Association.

But Bonenberg is unfazed, because last season was also late due to the cold temperatures.

Production can vary widely from north to south. A few producers in the Sault Ste. Marie area boiled until May 1 last year, while those south of Highway 7 in Ontario were finished by the second week of April.

Quebec is experiencing a similar situation to Ontario this season, according to Caroline Cyr of the Federation of Quebec Maple Syrup Producers.

"In general, the season is late," she said, adding that she expects it to begin in earnest by the end of March.

Pierre Faucher, owner of Sucrerie de la Montagne in Rigaud, Que., was jubilant this week as sap started dripping into his 3,500 buckets. He's not letting the delay get to him. After all, says Faucher, you can't control Mother Nature.

"Nature doesn't have a watch," Faucher said from his operation west of Montreal. A combination of nights below freezing and days above freezing is needed to get the sap flowing in sugar maple trees.

Faucher and four others

gather sap by hand and boil it over a wood fire in a sugar shack. It takes about 40 litres of maple sap to make one litre of maple syrup. "Normal people have pipelines and pumps and stuff, but I wanted to keep it traditional," he said.

Deep snow in the Maritimes this winter has meant producers have had to do some digging to uncover their lines. But sap flow a few weeks behind schedule was buying them time to get their trees tapped.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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ROSEMARY WESTWOOD

metroview

Vince Gasparro's: The kind of place that makes a neighbourhood.

Nick Gasparro had a hard time keeping up a phone conversation on Thursday behind the counter of his family butcher shop. Customers kept walking into the store, some in search of an Easter ham, others offering their condolences on the recent death of Vincenzo Gasparro, Nick's father and the founder of the family business.

"Hold on," Nick, 42, said to me over the phone.

Then I heard a woman's voice. "I just found out yesterday about your dad. I'm so sorry," she said.

"Thank you," Nick said. "Thank you for coming, honey."

Vince Gasparro's Meat Market has stood on Toronto's west-end corner of Bloor Street and Roxton Road since 1960. And it's exactly the kind of place that makes a neighbourhood worth living in.

They're in every Canadian city. Mom-and-pop shops, they're called dismissively.

They're not the country's economic leaders, if you go by GDP. Most of that is driven by mid-sized or large companies, as CIBC economist Benjamin Tal noted. Industry Canada doesn't even break down the contribution of companies with less than 49 employees (a group which makes up 30 per cent of the GDP).

But these micro-businesses also account for 75 per cent of companies that employ people in Canada. They are nimble, adaptable, the economic equivalent of the "oil that oils

the machine," Tal said.

Plus, he added, "there are some things that you cannot measure."

For example, what does it mean when longtime customer Vanessa, 34, calls the butcher shop "an institution"?

How do you measure the impact of hiring the likes of 24-year-old Milk, who is also a musician, by offering him a flexible, reliable part-time job while he pursues his dreams?

What is the worth of a man like Vince, who knew everybody's name, and their kids, and their grandkids; who took IOUs when customers were short at the end of the month; who went to the funerals and wedding of his customers, and whose customers, in turn, filled an old stone church one rainy morning this week? These are intangibles, but they have an economic impact just by drawing people to want to call this corner of a city home.

It's challenging times for independent shops forced to compete against national chains with deep pockets. But without these kinds of businesses, and the people who run them, our cities would be all the more uniform, all the less human.

I asked Nick, who has been a butcher with his father for 20 years, how long he wanted to keep the store going.

"I don't know that, honey, for as long as I'm going to be here," he said. "Hopefully a long time."

Strange love

THE KOHLER REPORT

Rebecca Kohler



I used to think online dating was an inorganic and awkward way to meet people.

"Hello, my computer says we might get along, would you like to eat pho together?"

And maybe it is a little weird, but on second thought, the new-ish phenomenon of apps such as Tinder and OkCupid look totally natural when compared to the age-old art form of matchmaking.

Two B.C. women are asking for their money back after paying a matchmaking service, LifeMates Canada, thousands of dollars to find them Mr. Right ... or at least Mr. Pretty Good. Both women claim that LifeMates set them up on dates with men that came nowhere near to what they'd asked for.

While I feel for the women involved, I don't think they should get their money back because in the words of the Beatles: Can't Buy Me Love.

I hated the movie Inception; I have other friends who thought it was a masterpiece. I think John Fluevog shoes are an affront to the feet they're worn on; I have a friend who won't wear any other brand. If movies and shoes are subjective, why would anyone think we could agree on who's lovable?

I went on a blind date once. My friends told me the guy was tall, dark and cute. I pictured Tom Cruise (on stilts). When I got to the date, my heart sank. The guy wasn't ugly — he was attractive — but he wasn't what I had pictured and he wasn't my type. What is my type? Ha! I wouldn't be able to tell you until I saw it and even then I probably wouldn't be

able to pinpoint what it was about that person that caught my eye.

This isn't only about looks. A man who's "funny" to some, might be a Yakov Smirnoff to others. Maybe he's a "great cook," but he cooks vegan and you like steak. There are a million reasons why a good quality on paper might not live up to itself in real life. And what about pheromones and body language and fashion choices? Your date might be nice and cute and smart, but you're too distracted by the socks-and-sandals look to notice.

I've dated online and yes, there were (many) times I was disappointed in that scenario, too. Maybe the guy didn't look like his photo or his funny email banter translated to awkward real-life conversation. One guy kept making racist jokes while another somehow had me paying for

everything (actually, I think that was the same guy). But on my way home from those dates, at least I knew I had chosen those men.

I had no one to blame for the losers I was dating but myself.

Matchmakers are middlemen while online dating services basically act as a directory of "who's single." You peruse, you choose. Compared to LifeMates Canada, OkCupid looks as natural as a drug-free birth.

If I can't trust the people who know me best to buy me a sweater I like for Christmas, why would anyone trust a stranger to find them love?

Rebecca Kohler is a standup comic, writer, actor, gymnast, lawyer and chemist. (Some of this isn't true.) Follow her on Twitter at @becca_kohler

Happy face/Sad face

From **naked neighbours** to **cat lady whisperers**, Metro weighs in on the news that made headlines this week:



Grin and bare it

People in Charlotte, N.C., will not get a reprieve from the sight of their neighbour standing buck naked by his doorway several times a week. Police say that while the local law prohibits being nude in places the public has access to, there's nothing that can be done in this case. Maybe it's time for the local residents association to take matters into their own hands and strategically plant some shrubbery in front of naked dude's yard.



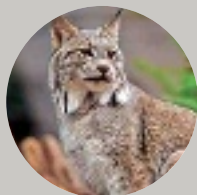
Beginning of the end (fingers crossed)

In what's been heralded as an important step in eliminating the virus for good, researchers "deleted" HIV from human DNA. The scientists used a DNA-snipping enzyme to cut out the virus, and then the cell's repair machinery took over, fusing the cell back together. And as if this isn't excellent enough, the process potentially could be applied to many other diseases. Not bad scientists, not bad.



Hey kitty kitty kitty

Hey guys, can we drop the crazy cat-lady trope already? Beth-Ann Colebourne delighted the Internet this week when she posted a video to YouTube of a lynx she spotted outside her northern Ontario shop. But then a bunch of meanies questioned her sanity because she says things in the video like, "What's up, buddy?" to the wild cat. Listen, trolls: Colebourne has chased a bear away before. She is an animal whisperer. She's awesome, and she's got it covered, OK?



A whole new world

Are you in desperate need of a break from the repetitive monotony of your life, daydreaming of perhaps being on a palm-tree lined beach? And you know how even if you can't immediately make that place your reality, just the thought of being there makes you feel so much better? Expand your fantasy repertoire with this new Japanese exhibit. Artists created an immersive interactive garden of 2,300 floating flowers inspired by a Zen koan. Domo arigato, guys, for creating a beautiful world where person and flower become one.

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Ferrell's fearless with the funny

GET HARD

Comedian is always up for slapstick promo stunts

IN FOCUS

Richard Crouse



You can tell Will Ferrell has a new movie coming out because he's doing the darndest things.

On March 12, he played for 10 Major League Baseball teams in five spring training games in one day. Since then he's roasted Justin Bieber, walked red carpets at South By Southwest, dressed as a leprechaun with David Letterman, appeared on The Tonight Show in drag as snack cake queen Little Debbie, and traded barbs with Jon Stewart while wearing a T-shirt emblazoned with dozens of pictures of Zach Galifianakis.

He's pulling out all the stops to make sure everyone knows Get Hard, his comedy about a rich man who hires a coach (Kevin Hart) to prep him for prison, opens this weekend.

A few years ago, I landed in the middle of one of Ferrell's outlandish publicity stunts.

In July 2012 he was stumping for The Campaign, a political satire co-starring Galifianakis. The hot-and-steamy Toronto summer afternoon began with the actors riding down Yonge Street, throw-



Sitting on a bucket with his pants down? No big deal for Ferrell. Get Hard opens this weekend. CONTRIBUTED

ing out campaign buttons to passersby until they arrived at the Hockey Hall of Fame.

Inside, I hosted a press conference with them and Mayor Rob Ford. Onstage, actors posing as Mounties guarded the Stanley Cup as Ford, then the most famous, and controversial, politician in Canada, gave the guys advice on how to campaign. Nothing was rehearsed and everyone was a bit nervous as I brought the three to the dais.

Ferrell talked about what

happened next on the Late Show with David Letterman.

"We step up to the mic. We're supposed to say a few words, and I say, 'How about a big round of applause for your mayor, Rob Ford.' It was literally ... not even a smattering of applause, just two people."

"It was just so silent that I actually had to comment on it. So I said, 'Mr. Mayor, that's a horrible ovation,' and the press corps burst out laughing. And he was just laughing.



It was just so silent that I actually had to comment on it. So I said, 'Mr. Mayor, that's a horrible ovation.'

Will Ferrell on doing a stunt with Rob Ford

He didn't care. Just sweaty."

Ford was a good sport and played along. He gave them each a miniature Stanley Cup, pinned "Rob Ford for Mayor" buttons on their chests and handed out his famous business cards, fridge



magnets and bumper stickers before imparting some sage advice.

"It's very simple. Every person you meet, hand out a magnet and business card, and return people's phone calls. Customer service is No. 1" With a laugh he added, "and don't talk to the Toronto Star."

It may not have been the smoothest promotional stunt of all time, but it certainly was a memorable one.

The next year, Ferrell worked Ford into the promotion for Anchorman 2. By this time Ford's scandal-ridden term in office, fuelled by admissions of drug use, had rocketed him into the international spotlight.

Ferrell, in character as ridiculous San Diego newscaster Ron Burgundy, came out in support of Ford's re-election.

"Ron doesn't realize how much trouble Rob Ford is in," said Ferrell to Metro.

"He just thinks he's a great guy. Gregarious. Fun. Life of the party. Ron's advice would just be 'Keep doing what you're doing, it's obviously working.'"

He even wrote a campaign song to the tune of Loverboy's Working for the Weekend.

As usual, Ford took it all in stride, tweeting, "I had to laugh at my friend Ron Burgundy & his take on my 2014 re-election campaign song."

There's been no mention of Rob Ford in the promotion for Get Hard, but if Ferrell ever makes The Campaign 2: The Re-Election perhaps he'll give the former mayor a call.



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Getting a real feel for movies

FUTURE OF CINEMA

Virtual reality technology catches eye of filmmakers

Matt Kwong
Metro | Life

Comfy seating. Hot popcorn. And a stereoscopic virtual-reality headset for your viewing pleasure. It's a new cinematic experience envisioned by Hollywood and electronics manufacturers keen to tap into the hot VR market.

In recent years, Microsoft, Sony, Facebook, Google and Samsung have assumed a "gold-rush mentality" for VR, tech analyst Kevin Restivo said.

"As the core technology becomes refined for the masses, they're looking for wider applications," he said. "The movies are an obvious one."

Whereas the usual movie-watching experience is a one-directional affair, VR lets you step inside a scene, giving you the feeling you can move around in a film's environment. If you see an image on screen, or if a character is to your left, you can turn your head instead to the right and explore your surroundings with a 360-degree view.

The technology definitely caught the interest of attendees at this year's Sundance film festival.

A section dedicated to VR filmmaking was a main attraction at the fest. Users donned 3D wraparound goggles to experience an original scene from Wild between Reese Witherspoon and Laura Dern.

Last month, premium cable network HBO and Lionsgate, the studio behind the \$1.5-billion Hunger Games franchise, announced content creation deals for HTC's much-hyped Vive system.

Beyond gaming, it's "the next logical step" for the Vive, said Jeff Gattis, an HTC spokesman.

"We can take content and brands that are known, and just open up new windows of entertainment," he said. "Whether that's going to be full features or clips, at a minimum, it's the creation of immersive virtual reality experiences."

That immersion aspect is what most excites Tre Azam. His U.K. company manufactures MyndPlay, a brainwave-sensing headband which, when used with VR displays such as the Oculus, allows a viewer to "change the storyline" of a video based on emotional responses.

"We've got a MyndGuardian video that puts you into an attack scenario where you're being mugged," Azam said. "You can train your mind into going into fight or flight mode. Maybe you want to defend yourself instead of panicking."

Developers, he said, have built some videos with 32 possible interactions.

"Imagine you've got a

90-minute movie where every scene could have a different possibility thrown in," he said.

So far, studios have been mostly leveraging VR experiences to hype up their big productions.

In collaboration with Lionsgate, Samsung's Gear VR device released a short on March 20 to promote the second film in its popular Divergent series.

Insurgent: Shatter Reality starred actors reprising their roles from the films.

HBO has experimented with short movie-making for VR headsets as well.

Attendees at last year's South By Southwest lined up to demo a Game of Thrones experience using Facebook's Oculus Rift VR headset. Users joined the Night's Watch and climbed a ladder to the top of the 700-foot ice wall.

As for when full-length VR feature films might ever take off as main cinematic attractions? That's hard to tell, said independent filmmaker Elli Raynai, who is completing his VR short for the Oculus Rift.

"I don't know if virtual reality is going to replace cinema," Raynai said. "All I know is it has different rules, it presents a new way of telling stories, and that's exciting for filmmakers."

+ Q&A

Cinephile Jesse Wentz, director of film programs at TIFF Bell Lightbox shared some thoughts on the technology.

On the lasting power of VR films: "I think we're a little early in the days to dismiss it as a gimmick."

On the solitude aspect of VR: "I think you'd be hard-pressed to create a physical communal experience if the idea is total immersion in a virtual world."

On the difference between VR and cinema:

"I wouldn't rule out some kind of future in which virtual reality can offer something similar to the movie-going experience. But ultimately, seeing a movie is seeing a moving in cinema. There's been no way to recreate it for 100 years."

MATT KWONG/METRO



A scene from Insurgent: Shatter Reality for Samsung's Gear VR.

VIRTUAL REALITY

A look at the VR headsets

1 Oculus Rift/Facebook (formerly Oculus Rift) Two development kits released. No consumer release date yet. DK2 costs \$350.

2 Project Morpheus/Sony Head-mounted display to be compatible with PlayStation 4 and PlayStation Vita gaming consoles. Anticipated early 2016 release.

3 Google Cardboard/Google Google's DIY device folds out from a piece of cardboard to turn a smartphone into a

VR headset. Users can download the app and either purchase a toolkit online, or build one themselves by following free online tutorials.

4 The Vive/HTC Marketed as a "premium" virtual reality experience, and powered by SteamVR. Anticipated release in the spring.

5 Samsung Gear VR/Samsung This is the first head-mounted display to hit the market, and costs \$199 US. The headmount was specifically designed to work with a Galaxy Note 4 smartphone.

6 Virtual Boy/Nintendo Released in 1995, then quickly discontinued the following year after poor sales and reports that some players were experiencing headaches from overuse. Originally retailed for around \$180 US.

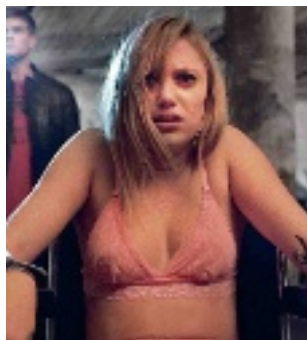
“Imagine you’ve got a 90-minute movie where every scene could have a different possibility thrown in”

Tre Azam of Myndplay



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HORROR It Follows

Director: David Robert Mitchell
Starring: Maika Monroe, Keir Gilchrist

After a strange sexual encounter, a teenager finds herself haunted by nightmarish visions and the inescapable sense that something is after her.

ROTTEN TOMATOES™ SCORE

Critics: 94% Audience: 72%



ANIMATED Home

Director: Tim Johnson
Starring: Jim Parsons, Rihanna

When Oh, a lovable misfit from another planet, lands on Earth and finds himself on the run, he forms an unlikely friendship with a girl named Tip who is on a quest of her own. Through a series of adventures with Tip, Oh comes to understand that being different and making mistakes is all part of being human.

ROTTEN TOMATOES™ SCORE

Critics: 40% Audience: 69%



COMEDY Get Hard

Director: Etan Cohen
Starring: Will Ferrell, Kevin Hart

Will Ferrell and Kevin Hart headline this Warner Bros. comedy about a wrongfully convicted investment banker who prepares for prison life with the help of the man who washes his car. Etan Cohen directs, with Ian Roberts and Jay Martel handling screenwriting duties.

ROTTEN TOMATOES™ SCORE

Critics: 28% Audience: +95%



ACTION/ADVENTURE The Gunman

Director: Pierre Morel
Starring: Sean Penn, Idris Elba

The Gunman, the new action thriller from Pierre Morel, the director of Taken, stars Sean Penn, Javier Bardem, Idris Elba, Ray Winstone and Mark Rylance.

ROTTEN TOMATOES™ SCORE

Critics: 12% Audience: 36%



ACTION The Divergent Series: Insurgent

Director: Robert Schwentke
Starring: Shailene Woodley, Ansel Elgort, Theo James

SpongeBob Square Pants, the world's favourite sea-dwelling invertebrate, comes ashore to our world for his most super-heroic adventure yet.

ROTTEN TOMATOES™ SCORE

Critics: NOT YET REVIEWED Audience: +86%



MYSTERY & SUSPENSE Run All Night

Director: Jaume Collet-Serra
Starring: Liam Neeson, Natalie Martinez

Liam Neeson reunites with Unknown director Jaume Collet-Serra for this Warner Bros. thriller following a mob hit-man and his estranged son (Joel Kinnaman) as they flee the wrath of a vengeful crime boss.

ROTTEN TOMATOES™ SCORE

Critics: 60% Audience: +89%

Director of Fifty Shades bows out

MOVIES

Sam Taylor-Johnson gone from erotic film franchise

Sam Taylor-Johnson will not be returning to direct the sequels to Fifty Shades of Grey, she announced Wednesday night.

"Directing Fifty Shades of Grey has been an intense and incredible journey for which I am hugely grateful," she said in a statement to industry site Deadline in which she thanked Universal Pictures.

Taylor-Johnson's \$40 million adaptation of author E L James' erotic novel has grossed a staggering \$558 million worldwide in just six weeks in theatres, but even before the film debuted, rumours circulated that she would not likely be the person ushering Fifty Shades Darker and Fifty Shades Freed to the big screen.

Stars Dakota Johnson and Jamie Dornan are expected to return for both sequels, which have yet to be officially an-



Sam Taylor-Johnson. INVISION/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

nounced.

While it is nothing new for directors to exit franchises after the first film, Taylor-Johnson and James' fraught on-set relationship was widely reported.

Earlier this year, James, also a producer on the film, alluded to their conflicts, telling The Associated Press that she had to fight for a lot of things really hard," which included a dis-

agreement over the last line of the film.

Still, in her statement, Taylor-Johnson made sure to note the "close and lasting relationships" she formed with the cast, producers, crew and "most especially, with Dakota and Jamie."

A representative for Universal Pictures had no comment. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Crack up with Ferrell and Hart

MOVIES

Stars of Get Hard get you laughing. What else is new?

Will Ferrell and Kevin Hart have made names for themselves for being hilarious on film and TV screens, but can they be funny on paper? We sat down to chat with the Get Hard stars to find out. You be the judge.

Reporter sits down, places digital recorder on table...

Will Ferrell: Is everyone cool with this? It's a Sony product ...

Kevin Hart: Will, that's not ... you didn't have to go there.

Ferrell: Sorry.

Kevin, when are we going to get a movie where somebody's helping you out?

Hart: That's tough, man. I like to be in charge. You know, me and Denzel have this thing about being in charge. I'm talking about

doing Equalizer, the next one. Equalizer: Part 2.

Ferrell: I love it.

Hart: Re-equalized is what they call it. It's called Equal Plus Equal.

Ferrell: You're not going to get any argument from me.

Hart: No, you know what? I've started out in a place with characters where it was constantly reacting, reacting, reacting, and now it's in a place where the characters are a little bit more grounded and relatable. If this pattern continues to go, of course I think you'll see it flop.

But in this particular film I'm playing two characters in the movie, so I love that I'm giving audiences the best of both worlds. As is Will.

He's all right, I guess.

Hart: Well, in this movie I think he could've been better, but at this point you take what you can.

Ferrell: I did not give my best effort, I'm not going to lie.

Hart: Every day, Will showed up and was like, "I don't know about you, but I'm here for the

cheque." That's what he would say, every day, and I was like, "What the f— was that?"

Ferrell: I kept checking to make sure I was going to make the Pelicans game. Because we shot in New Orleans. But we were never butting heads in terms of comedy style or whatever.

Hart: Well, there was the one time when you were like, "I'm going to my f—ing trailer. Kevin's up seven to nothing." He kept score.

Ferrell: I count the lines. I'll go through a script and I'll count the lines. I told Kevin first thing, "Hey, we're going to have a great time, but I have counted the lines and I have 30 more lines than you, and I feel good about that." I don't feel like that's too many more lines.

So how did he get ahead in the count?

Ferrell: I just noticed. One day he was just coming up with all this great stuff, and I was down seven. So I just ended that. We wrapped at 11:30 a.m. that day.

NED EHRBAR/FOR METRO



Catch Kevin Hart and Will Ferrell in *Get Hard* when it hits theatres this Friday. CONTRIBUTED

REAL GET HARD

Consultant shares jail misconceptions

Lee Steven Chapelle had heard of *Get Hard*, a new flick about a white-collar criminal prepping for a prison sentence, but was surprised to learn it was a comedy.

Chapelle is a real-life prison consultant based in Ottawa who works with the soon-to-be incarcerated and their families to ensure their time in jail is as safe, productive and brief as possible.

He has spent roughly 21 years total in prison. He was first convicted at 16.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Picking fights

Collective wisdom seems to suggest that freshly incarcerated individuals should testify to their tenacity by attacking someone. "If you're a person who's built to be able to do that, great," says a chuckling Chapelle. But such aggressiveness will only make it harder for inmates to campaign for parole later. Instead, he recommends that those new to prison mind their own business.

Jail scares kids

Chapelle was a middle-class kid who stirred minor trouble as an adolescent before being convicted at 16 of a property crime. "My parents thought, 'OK, tough love, we're going to leave you in this detention centre,'" he says, recalling his two-month stint. "By the time I came out, I was completely anti-establishment." He ended up spending roughly a total of 21 years in jail.

Canada versus the world

Particularly irksome for Chapelle is the idea that Canadian jails are somehow less bleak than prisons elsewhere. "We have our highest inmate population total in the history of Canada right now and the infrastructure is busting," he says. "You're sleeping with your head by a toilet because there's three or sometimes four to a cell."



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Take me back to JEFFERSON

Based on William Faulkner's novel *As I Lay Dying*

Breathtakingly adapted from Faulkner's acclaimed Southern Gothic odyssey, witness the marathon of pain, hunger, fire and flood one family must endure to fulfill their matriarch's final wish to be buried with her kin.

From a bare stage and with minimal props, Theatre Smith-Gilmour crafts an entire world right before your eyes through vivid movement and the power of the spoken word. It's physical theatre at its very best.

"A physical-theatre tour de force"

—The Globe and Mail

In an intimate experience complemented by precise lighting and sound effects, seven actors portray 19 distinct roles across Faulkner's down and dirty rural Mississippi. The cast brilliantly invokes the imagination to make a rocky wagon-ride, a flock of buzzards or raging forces of nature nearly palpable to the audience.

"You will swear you have seen live horses and rivers in flood and barns on fire as well as the strangest and most heartbreaking family."
— Michael Ondaatje

Long considered too expansive for film or stage, this production pares the story back to its most powerful and essential elements. Even so, it remains an epic journey — one that is simply not to be missed.

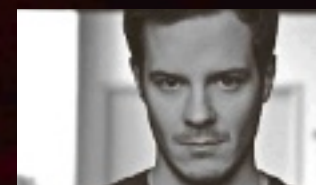
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SCIENCE

Another smoking-type coverup? 'Trust me, in the next 10 years'

Often, the doctors and scientists are pushed by patients themselves.

The story of radical mastectomy for breast cancer is particularly illuminating, how it went from the universally accepted treatment with naysayers ridiculed until other, less invasive approaches were proven effective.

The film *The Emperor of All Maladies* by Ken Burns discusses the groundbreaking surgeon general's report in the 1960s strongly linking cigarette smoking to cancer and the slow but steady reduction, at least in the United States, of probably the best-known carcinogen.

"You could say, 'Does that matter?'" Dr. Siddhartha Mukherjee said.

"Trust me, in the next 10 years we will find yet another new carcinogen being somewhere that we don't know about and a company that's eager to obfuscate on its origins, and the lessons from what we learned about cigarettes will apply all over again."

Sharon Rockefeller, president and CEO of PBS' influential

Washington affiliate WETA, read Mukherjee's book while she was being treated for colon cancer, caught just weeks before becoming incurable. With Laura Ziskin, the late co-founder of Stand Up to Cancer, they resolved to see the book turned into a film.

The documentary is one that its own makers hope becomes outdated quickly by the advance of new research. Perhaps it can have an impact on a trend that Mukherjee sees as particularly alarming: funding cuts to cancer

for understanding the disease.

He's concerned that the best scientists will be drawn to more lucrative work. Still, Mukherjee was positive when asked if he was more or less optimistic about the fight against cancer than when he was writing his book.

"I'm immensely optimistic not because politics has proved that way, but because patient advocacy and science have moved that way," he said. "I'm optimistic despite the political realm."



Executive producer Ken Burns • THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE



The Emperor of All Maladies is like a State of the Union address on cancer. The three-part series will premiere on PBS on Monday. COURTESY PBS

One of our biggest fears, confronted

DOCUMENTARY

The Emperor of all Maladies takes a hard look at cancer

There's a mystery to cancer, in large part because of fear, that PBS tries to unravel in next week's six-hour documentary *Cancer: The Emperor of All Maladies*.

"We're not really honest with each other," filmmaker Ken Burns said.

"We know about heart disease. We know about diabetes. We know about other things, but there's a kind of resistance because cancer is so scary."

Burns, who was 11 when his mother died of breast cancer, is executive producer of the film, directed by Barak Goodman. It's one of the few times Burns has been involved in a project that he didn't instigate.

The film airs over three consecutive nights beginning on March 30 and is inspired by

Dr. Siddhartha Mukherjee's Pulitzer Prize-winning book of the same title. Starting at its most elemental — how cancer got its name — the documentary tells the story of advances and setbacks in years of research on how the disease develops and is treated, through developments since Mukherjee's book was published in 2010.

Mukherjee sees it as a State of the Union address on cancer, a topic with a reach and complexity that can make the entirety of the federal government seem simple in comparison.

The film softens the science with individual stories of people fighting for their survival.

Cancer proves an elusive and resilient enemy. Much of the promising research has been done since the 1970s, establishing that the cell mutations that characterize the disease can be triggered by genetics, the environment or a virus.

Treatments that once seemed promising proved dis-

66

The history of cancer has been littered with false dawns

Barak Goodman

appointing. Some had limited success.

Immunotherapy, the use of a person's own immune system to fight cancer cells, is so new that it barely received a mention in Mukherjee's book but gets a thorough telling in the film.

The film follows the story of the very first child ever to receive a new treatment to attack cancer cells.

"The history of cancer has been littered with false dawns with, as our film discusses, moments of great optimism followed by immediately crashing disillusionment," Goodman said.

"So we did have to be very careful about those we chose to follow."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



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Jason Clarke, Emilia Clarke, Jai Courtney, and Arnold Schwarzenegger pose for a portrait during press day for *Terminator: Genisys* in Los Angeles. CASEY CURRY/INVISION/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

A Terminator for all seasons

TERMINATOR: GENISYS

Army's back to introduce the Terminator to a new generation

With four films (two great, two questionable), over \$1 billion in box office receipts, and a jumbled time-travel mythology, *Terminator: Genisys* is taking the elements of James Cameron's 1984 original and twisting them a bit to create an entirely new timeline. Two more Terminators are planned.

Getting a jump on a summer that's chock full of franchise fare, including continuations of *The Avengers* and *Jurassic Park*, Paramount Pictures recently showcased a few minutes of action-packed footage from *Terminator: Genisys*.

Key cast members, including Schwarzenegger, were also made available — all to help generate early buzz for what the studio hopes will be a bona fide summer blockbuster.

Paramount is on a major push to restore its once robust production prowess. Although its franchises, including *Transformers* and *Mission: Impossible*, are successful, the studio has lagged behind its Hollywood counterparts in recent years.

Seated on a massive couch

next to his three new co-stars, Schwarzenegger seemed glad to be back. "I watched all the movies again to really get up to speed with the character," he said.

The film opens in a familiar spot — 2029, when the war against the all-powerful artificial intelligence system Skynet is raging. Resistance leader John Connor (Jason Clarke) once again sends soldier Kyle Reese (Jai Courtney) back to 1984 to save his mother, Sarah Connor (Emilia Clarke), from being killed by a Terminator. But this time, things are different. Sarah has her own protector: An aged Terminator who has raised her since childhood.

"We're really harking back to James Cameron's original characters that were in one and two and we're taking it from there," said Emilia Clarke.

The project on the whole is an intensely hush-hush endeavour, but director Alan Taylor (*Thor: The Dark World*) has said many times that, at its heart, the film is about man's relationship to technology in the modern age. In 2015, that idea has evolved from when James Cameron first introduced us to the T-800 31 years ago.

"In '84, this was total science fiction — when machines take over. And now, we're there," said Schwarzenegger. "That's the wild thing about it. When

“In '84, this was total science fiction — when machines take over. And now, we're there.”

Arnold Schwarzenegger

we did this movie, it was kind of almost reality, unlike in 1984 where we thought, 'oh well wouldn't this be a funny world.' Things have changed."

Jason Clarke jumped in to agree.

"Good science fiction is relatable. It mirrors what we're going through and Cameron set up wonderful, iconic metaphors and characters for us to play with," he said. "Judgment Day still exists. It just might not be nuclear."

While there are many Terminator die-hards out there waiting, as Courtney says, "to criticize this thing," when it finally hits theatres on July 1, he believes they'll be pleasantly surprised.

"The beauty of what we've done is not only stayed loyal to the original source material but opened it up to a whole new generation," said Courtney. "I think we'll succeed in bringing them in." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Exhibit explores Don Draper's world

POP CULTURE

New York museum sheds light as Mad Men returns

You don't need to be mad about Mad Men to savour Matthew Weiner's Mad Men at New York's Museum of the Moving Image.

This collection of hundreds of props, dozens of costumes, two full-scale sets and scads of notes and scripts from AMC's glorious drama series will surely thrill all Mad Men fans as they brace themselves for its final seven episodes (starting April 5).

But beyond any frisson from actually entering the sacred space of ad man Don Draper's 1960s office after seeing it on-screen so many times, or from standing inches from Megan's Zou Bisou Bisou mini-dress (displayed, alas, not by Jessica Pare but on a mannequin), the exhibit is more than a TV-focused spectacle. It's a resurrected world of Americana as frozen in time a half-century ago.

Item: When was the last time you saw an S&H Green Stamps Saver Book? You may spy a couple of them among



The cast of Mad Men: The final episodes of the series will begin on April 5. FRANK OCKENFELS/AMC

the many props dressing the Ossining, N.Y., kitchen of Don and Betty Draper (which, like Don's office, was transplanted to this MOMI gallery from the L.A. studio where Mad Men was shot). Then turn your gaze past the vintage Lux liquid bottle at the sink and the ceramic knickknacks on the panelled wall over to the breakfast

table, where a grocery list calls for such items as a can of peas, whipping cream and margarine.

To behold this intimate scene, which seems to breathe with life even absent its fictional residents, can make you feel

downright voyeuristic.

Now don't forget and light up! Among the curios at hand are a circa '60s cigarette machine, numerous ashtrays and Don's totemic lighter, Betty's cigarette case and pack of Salems. On a wall are ads from Don's agency, such as "We'll meet you anywhere. Hilton" and "Relax. Lucky Strike."

For evidence of how pains-



The set for Don Draper's office from Seasons 4-6 is displayed as part of the exhibition, Matthew Weiner's Mad Men at the Moving Image in New York. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Notes and storylines for Mad Men scribbled by series creator Matthew Weiner are part of the exhibition. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

takingly detailed Mad Men always was, note the TV Guide in the clutter on a secretary's desk: A label indistinguishable from the real thing designates the magazine's addressee as Sterling Cooper & Assocs on Manhattan's Avenue of the Americas — in type far too small for the camera to have noticed.

Matthew Weiner's Mad Men (a title that confers proper credit on the series' mastermind) has been a year in the works, according to exhibition curator Barbara Miller, who speaks gratefully of the collaboration with the museum by Weiner and his colleagues, even as "they gave us the freedom to do what we wanted."

What the museum wanted, she says, is more than a gallery

of gathered artifacts. A corresponding goal was to shed light on this series' creative process, reaching back before its sets and costumes were designed and the cameras rolled.

With that in mind, the exhibition has resurrected the show's writers' room where, for seven seasons, Mad Men narratives and scripts blossomed.

Matthew Weiner's Mad Men will help its visitors understand how a great TV series came about. But it's also a '60s-spanning time trip that celebrates how Don Draper and his Mad Men comrades inhabited their world while it honours their flesh-and-blood contemporaries who made their home in that decade for real.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

DON DRAPER BENCH

Selfie spot for Mad Men fans

Mad Men fans can now take a selfie with Don Draper, thanks to a bench unveiled Monday featuring the fictional adman's silhouette.

Jon Hamm, the actor who plays Draper, posed for photos on the bench outside the Time & Life Building at 1271 Avenue of the Americas in midtown Manhattan.

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+ IF YOU GO

Visit the exhibition

The Matthew Weiner's Mad Men exhibit runs through June 14 at the Museum of the Moving Image in New York City. For hours, visit movingimage.us. Adults, \$12; students with ID, \$9; children 3-12, \$6. Free admission Friday 4 p.m.-8 p.m.

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So many men, so much talent

INTERVIEW

Actress Patricia Clarkson gushes about co-stars in October Gale

Patricia Clarkson's new thriller, *October Gale*, sees her working again with director Ruba Nadda, and starring opposite Callum Keith Rennie, Tim Roth and Scott Speedman.

"Can you imagine I got to be in a film with those men?" she says. "I arrived on the set and said, 'Oh my God, Ruba, I have died and gone to heaven.' Not only are they beautiful men, physically, but if you threw all their handsomeness out the window, they're gorgeous actors. First class ... singular actors."

The New Orleans native, an Academy Award nominee for Best Supporting Actress for her performance in *Pieces of April*, plays a doctor mourning the loss of her husband. For solace she retreats to a remote cottage in Georgian Bay. Her time of quiet reflection and healing is disrupted, however, by the ap-



Scott Speedman and Patricia Clarkson in *October Gale*. CONTRIBUTED

pearance of a mysterious and seriously injured young man, played by Speedman.

October Gale is the second collaboration between Clarkson and director Ruba Nadda.

"Ruba and I are very similar gals," Clarkson says.

"We like our hair and our lipstick and our high heels. I have four older sisters and

Ruba is truly like the little sister I never had. We are like family. We have a second language now. It's kismet. "I think I'm just the luckiest gal to know her and to have her so deeply in my life; in my professional life, in my personal life. I know her family now. I know her sisters ... We're just family and yet we are able to



She's Syrian-Palestinian and I'm Southern, so watch out

Patricia Clarkson on her relationship with Ruba Nadda

separate all of that when we enter the workplace. We're both workhorses. We're very high energy, we don't take no for an answer, we'll fight to the death. She's Syrian-Palestinian and I'm Southern, so watch out."

Their first film together, *Cairo Time*, was the Best Reviewed Romance on Rotten Tomatoes for 2010 and soon they will begin

work on a series for HBO. Clarkson says her on-set relationship with Nadda is based on respect and the director's unique vision.

"Ruba has the courage to make films that people want to make," she says, "the kind of movies auteurs think they're making, but she actually has the courage to do it."

RICHARD CROUSE/METRO

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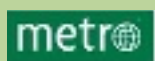
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Trailer Park Boys cleaning up act

SERIES

Season 9 will be released on Netflix this Friday

Aly Thomson
Metro

When Ricky of Sunnyvale Trailer Park gets out of jail on Friday, he's going to do something he's never done before: get a real job.

"I actually took some courses that are going to help me get a job. I took this course that helps you work with flowers so I might work at a flower store," said Ricky in a recent "interview from jail."

"I'm going to try and not do any crime and I just want to hang out with my grandson once he gets born."

Ricky (Robb Wells), Julian (John Paul Tremblay) and Bubbles (Mike Smith), who stayed in character for this interview, are back with Season 9 of the hugely successful Trailer Park Boys. The show will be released

Friday on Netflix.

Last season ended just as most others — with the infamous trailer park trio going back to jail.

But this time around, their stay on the inside appears to have had a positive impact.

Ricky and Julian are unusually optimistic about leading a crime-free life — a curious mindset for the career convicts, who usually commit just as many crimes in jail as outside.

Julian, who ended last season with shares of the park and a booming trailer-based bar and gym, says he plans to focus on his business.

"I spent a lot of time studying in here so when I get out I want to expand my business," said Julian, referring to Julian's Sports Bar and Gym.

"I think if I can expand the business, maybe open up some other ones around the Atlantic provinces, I think I'll be retired in three or four years."

But the boys are bound to fall into their old habits, especially with hints of trouble back in Sunnyvale.

"Things started out good, but then things changed a little bit and I'm just trying to deal with

it all," said Bubbles, who was released from jail months ago.

"I can't really talk about it right now because Julian is here and there's some things I don't particularly want him to know."

Sunnyvale's most hated alcoholic, Jim Lahey, was also taken away in a police cruiser last season after his plan to put the boys behind bars backfired when it was revealed that Lahey's ex-police partner George Green was working undercover.



Things have been getting a little out of hand.

Bubbles

"I was going to try and kill (Lahey) in jail, but they kept him away from me after that. It turned into a mess. I got stabbed with a screwdriver," said Ricky. "If Lahey doesn't mess with me, I'm going to try not to mess with him."

"But if he does mess with me, it's not going to be pretty."



Bubbles (Mike Smith) from Trailer Park Boys. The new season starts Friday. CONTRIBUTED

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Linda Cardellini says the Florida Keys location of *Bloodline* is as much a part of the show as the cast. GETTY IMAGES

“You don’t have to make an appointment with the television”

Linda Cardellini on the joys of binge watching



Kyle Chandler and Cardellini in Netflix’s *Bloodline*. SAEED ADYANI / NETFLIX

Linda finds the Keys to her heart

INTERVIEW

Star of Netflix’s *Bloodline* is enthralled by Florida locale

Richard Crouse
Metro | Canada

Linda Cardellini’s new show is filmed far from Hollywood. The former *Mad Men* co-star plays Meg Rayburn, wayward daughter of a large, secretive family in the Netflix series *Bloodline*. She co-stars with Kyle Chandler, Sam Shepard and Sissy Spacek, but says the Florida Keys location is as much a part of the show as the cast.

“It is otherworldly. It is different from anything I have known,” she says.

“It is a place that has a duality to it. On one hand, it is extraordinarily beautiful and on the other there is this oppressive heat and slight danger that follows you around everywhere. When you’re in the elements, there are a lot of things around you that are sometimes friendly to human beings and sometimes not so much. It’s perfect for the show because it really shows

this paradise and on the other side there are these really dangerous things.”

When she was first approached to do the *Bloodline*, there wasn’t even a script for her to read.

“There was a pitch,” she says, “and I had a meeting with (producer) Glen Kessler and he spoke so beautifully with so much rich detail about who this person is, what she means to the family, what the story means. To me, that was very exciting — how much he had to say and how much he knew.

“It showed to me that the creators of the show were very interested in each and every one of the characters. To have the family dynamic be appealing you have to understand every facet of the family.”

The pitch won her over, in part because she had just binge watched the legal drama *Damages*, the last show from the same producers.

“When I watched *Damages*, I loved how they wrote for women,” she says.

“I thought what could have been viewed as a stereotype was introduced and explored in such a fashion that broke all those stereotypes and broke all those glass ceilings about what a female character could or couldn’t be. To me that was very exciting.”



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Greta Hoogkinson in The National Ballet of Canada’s *Alice’s Adventures in Wonderland* • Photo: Christopher Wahl

What's next for Shailene

Still basking in the box-office success of *Insurgent*, Shailene Woodley just might outdo herself after the franchise ends. Judging by her peers Jennifer Lawrence and Kristen Stewart, who both went from blockbuster franchises to award-winning careers, it's entirely possible. AFP



Shailene Woodley's star is on the rise. ALL PHOTOS THE ASSOCIATED PRESS/GETTY

Oscar glow like Jennifer Lawrence

The parallels between *Divergent* and *The Hunger Games* are obvious: both are sci-fi adventure stories with a strong-willed female protagonist and a dystopian setting. But there are also parallels between the career paths of the two stars: Woodley and Jennifer Lawrence. Both made a name for themselves on the big screen before age 20 thanks to indie roles. Lawrence claimed her first Oscar nomination for *Winter's Bone*, while Woodley grabbed a Golden Globe nomination for *The Descendants*, in which she co-starred with George Clooney.



Eclectic roles like Kristen Stewart

Woodley and Lawrence both call to mind another actress who rose to global stardom in a high-grossing franchise: former *Twilight* star Kristen Stewart. Since the last *Twilight* movie, the actress has appeared in Walter Salles' adaptation of Jack Kerouac's *On the Road*, a film that took her to the Cannes Film Festival in 2012. After *Snow White and the Huntsman*, Stewart has graced the screen in a number of acclaimed films, including *Silence* by French director Olivier Assayas and *Still Alice* with Julianne Moore.



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+ IN BRIEF

Steven Spielberg to direct *Ready Player One*

Deadline reports that the man who has helmed everything from *Jaws* and *E.T.* to *Raiders of the Lost Ark* and *Minority Report* is about to get to grips with an adaptation of the cult sci-fi novel.

Written by Ernest Cline and set in a dystopian 2044, *Ready Player One* revolves largely around a virtual reality game focused on references to 1980s pop culture. And, as Deadline points out, some of those references are to Spielberg himself.

It is understood that the film would be a Warner Brothers-Village Roadshow co-production and that it will be the next cinematic project in Spielberg's schedule following the completion of his current film — a big-screen adaptation of Roald Dahl's children's story *The BFG*. AFP

Fully animated *Smurfs* reboot announced

The new movie is scheduled to hit cinema screens on March 31, 2017 and promises to be closer to the ori-

ginal Peyo comic books than Sony's previous two attempts.

Sony's 2011 *The Smurfs*, and its 2013 sequel *The Smurfs 2*, mixed animation with live action and, in the case of the latter, Katy Perry. According to director Kelly Asbury, this hybrid approach is being dumped in favour of traditional animation for the next instalment, as is any connection with the films that have preceded it.

The third Sony-produced *Smurfs* instalment had been scheduled to land in 2016 but thanks to the new date, As-



Smurf fans will get another film in 2017. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

bury promises the extra time will give him and his team the chance to deliver "the best movie possible without compromising — I could not be more happy!" AFP

Last chance: American-free Cuba

CARIBBEAN

What you need to experience before the island changes

Vawn Himmelsbach
Metro | Travel

Cuba is heating up. Flights, hotel rooms and even casas particulares, the Cuban version of B&Bs, are in demand. Scores of tourists from Canada are flocking to the country after U.S. President Obama announced plans to restore diplomatic ties with Cuba.

Once the border opens up to Americans, it's expected that prices will increase as demand exceeds supply.

Cuba's political and economic future is shifting, so if you want to get a glimpse of a bygone era before it's gone — a 1950s freeze frame where iPads and Starbucks don't exist — then now is the time to pack your bags.

Old Havana

The capital city, where most travellers flock, is already fairly touristy — though it's a photographer's dream with its 1950s classic cars and crumbling art nouveau and colonial architecture.

If you want to get a sense of how Cubans really live, wander around Centro Havana. It's safe and easily walkable (Cuba is not known for violent crime), but the blazing heat may force



Practise your Spanish and see some classic cars in the capital city, Havana. ISTOCK

you to stop for a coconut daiquiri or Cuba libre at one of Ernest Hemingway's former haunts — like El Floridita — to cool down.

Tour the coast

It's well worth venturing beyond Havana. Since you can't Google your way through this country (indeed, Gmail won't work here, even if you do find Wi-Fi), it means that hidden gems are still, in fact, hidden.

Since much of the country's environment has been protected, Cuba offers up pristine coastlines and wetlands. There's fear, however, that once borders open up and for-

eign developers move in, this could change. So now is the time to see a world relatively untouched by tourism — before it is.

Cuba has thousands of coral reefs that appear to be healthier than others in Caribbean waters thanks to decades of isolation from mass tourism, according to the Nature Conservancy. So you can snorkel around reefs where you'll encounter everything from stingrays to green sea turtles — maybe even a reef shark — with no other boat in sight.

The Cannarreos Archipelago

One way to do this is to sail

Cuba's coastline. Canadian tour operator G Adventures, for example, recently launched a sailing trip that allows small groups of travellers to explore the islands of the Canarreos Archipelago, many of which are uninhabited.

The archipelago is made up of more than 300 islands and islets, most of which are uninhabited.

Cayo Largo is the second-largest island, though it's only 26 kilometres long and three kilometres wide. Aside from stunning beaches, it's home to nesting sea turtles and flamingos.

Then there's Cayo Rico,

which is only accessible by boat. There's a beach bar here, but that's it. You can hang out with the iguanas and explore secluded coves that make you feel like you're on a deserted island (though pina colodas are never too far away).

Meet the people

While sun-seekers have been heading to the island nation on discounted all-inclusive resort packages for years, the best way to see the "real" Cuba before it changes is to get off the resort.

The locals easily live up to their reputation as some of the friendliest, most hospitable

+ HISTORY

- Cuba was once the playground for America's wealthy elite, who lived it up in Havana's five-star resorts and casinos. But that all changed after the Cuban Revolution of 1953, where socialism took root under Fidel Castro and Che Guevara.
- The U.S. established a trade embargo against Cuba in 1962 to reduce "the threat posed by its alignment with the communist powers," according to Proclamation 3447.

people on the planet, and it's a great way to practice your Spanish.

If you do opt to sail the coast, dock overnight at the marina in Cayo Largo and join the Cubans for a late-night dance party to pulsating Latin beats under a sky full of stars. Don't know how to salsa or do the cha-cha-cha? No matter. You won't have any problem finding someone who will be happy to show you.

While you'll enjoy fresh seafood on the coast, it's also a first-hand experience of Cuban ingenuity. Step into a Cuban supermarket and you won't find much. There are no Pringles or Snickers bars. There are few fresh vegetables. So to see your Cuban cook whip up new — and tasty — dishes each day out of limited ingredients (such as tinned veggies) really hits home how Cubans actually live under a U.S. trade embargo.



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Malibu, Calif. \$640 per night

This former home of **Denzel Washington**, singers **Captain and Tennille** and **Jimmy Page** sits on a bluff overlooking Broad Beach, one of the area's most famous surfing beaches. From the oversized outdoor patio, you can watch the dolphins play. If you're a partier, take note, Malibu City Hall has a strict 'no noise after 10 p.m.' ordinance, and they enforce it. The house comfortably sleeps eight. Pets welcome.



Pacific Grove, Calif. \$1,422 per week

This historic studio has a unique and rich literary history, having belonged to **John Steinbeck** in the early '40s. He wrote *The Sea of Cortez* while living here. The 350-square-foot studio has its original '20s architecture, which means short doorways and a warning for tall guests to "mind their heads." Located a kilometre from the Monterey Bay Aquarium and Cannery Row.



Omaha, Neb. Free?

You can win your chance to stay in the childhood home of **Warren Buffett**, one of the world's richest men, by entering an Air BnB on-line contest. See where the trail-blazing entrepreneur launched his first business selling chewing gum door-to-door at age six. The hook: You need to be a Berkshire Hathaway shareholder to enter. The rich keep getting richer for a reason!



Stone Ridge, N.Y. \$2,586 per week

Located by the Mohonk Preserve, the Rubber House was built for the famed choreographer **Eugene Loring**. It was then owned by actor **Willem Dafoe** who faithfully retained the original dance studio and industrial kitchen. Situated on seven acres, the house is nestled within a grouping of giant moss-covered prehistoric boulders. The listing suggests you'll need a car, bike or perhaps a horse to get around.

Beyond Santa Monica's famous old pier

DESTINATION

Classics and more to see in this paradise on L.A.'s edge

Planning a trip to Southern California but don't want to fight L.A. traffic? Check out the Santa Monica in all its picture-postcard beauty. From a funky old pier surrounded by some of the world's best beaches to its upscale shopping district, scores of art galleries, top-rated restaurants and bountiful nightlife, there are enough things in this little oasis just 19 kilometres west of downtown Los Angeles to keep you not only occupied but enthralled.

What's new

Santa Monica Place: Transformed in 2010, this shopping mall is a bright, open-air gathering spot of upscale restaurants and stores that connects directly with the city's pedestrian-friendly Third Street Promenade, forming the heart of Santa Monica's downtown. The mall also provides an abundance of relatively reasonable parking within walking distance of the beach. A new-old addition to that beach is the Annenberg Community Beach House. Built in the 1920s by William Randolph Hearst for his companion, actress Mar-



The Pacific Park located on the Santa Monica Pier. RICHARD VOGEL/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

ion Davies, it was acquired by Santa Monica and opened to the public in 2009. Tours of the guest house and its art gallery are free.

Classic attractions

Start by making a beeline to Santa Monica Pier, the 99-year-old landmark with an entrance sign proclaiming it as the final stop on Route 66, the historic highway John Steinbeck declared America's Mother Road. Here you'll find everything from musicians, snake hand-

lers, artists and other street performers, to quiet areas set aside for fishing. In the middle of it all is an amusement park with a solar-powered Ferris wheel that carries riders 40 metres up. The wheel provides arguably the best panoramic views of the area. Near the pier's entrance is the Hippodrome, built in 1916 and home to a vintage carousel with hand-carved horses, only \$2 to ride (\$1 for kids).

As for the beach, it's a five-kilometre stretch, plenty to go around for surfers, swim-

mers, sunbathers and the like. You can check it all out by biking, roller skating or walking the boardwalk (actually made of concrete) that parallels the sand.

If there isn't a concert you want to see at McCabe's Guitar Shop (Christine Lavin and Holly Near will be there later this month), the nighttime destination is the Third Street Promenade. It rejuvenated Santa Monica's aging, moribund downtown when it was closed to cars in the late 1980s



The beach in Santa Monica. JAE C. HONG/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

and remains the city's signature downtown area with upscale shops, restaurants, bars, boutiques, yoga studios, art galleries and the like.

Hanging out

On the way into town check out Bergamot Station Art Center. A collection of modest buildings near a maintenance yard in the section of town farthest from the beach, it's easy to overlook. But inside this 19th-century rail yard you'll find a small art museum and more than a dozen contemporary galleries displaying photos, sculptures, paintings and more. There's also a good, reasonably priced restaurant with an outside dining area. Or ask for directions to Food Truck Alley, a nearby street on the edge of the city's

+ IF YOU GO

Getting around

- Basic one-way fares on the city's Big Blue Bus system are \$1, with multiple-ride passes available at discounted prices. Visit bigbluebus.com for details.
- Several hotels provide shuttle service to the pier, and bicycle rentals are available. If you drive, be warned street parking is difficult to find in most tourist areas.

high-tech district where a dozen or more food trucks congregate every weekday lunch hour.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Come for surf, stay for supper

TOFINO

B.C.'s beach town has been cultivating its culinary scene

One of the more memorable meals chef Tim May says he prepared in Tofino on British Columbia's remote West Coast was a wedding feast for a young couple who just eloped.

The newlyweds from Toronto exchanged vows on the beach, ran back to their honeymoon nest and watched as May, described locally as a culinary rock star, cooked their romantic dinner.

"It was kind of bizarre in a way because there's this couple and this is their wedding dinner," said May. "They just got married on the beach with the justice of the peace and then they come back to their little vacation home and here I am standing behind the bar cooking them dinner."

May is one of the many highly trained and visionary chefs who have migrated to the Vancouver Island coastal community known more for surfing and whale watching to contribute to a growing culinary scene that is adding more flavour to Tofino.



Tofino's residents are always searching for good food to fuel their bodies, according to chef Lisa Ahier who owns Tofino's SoBo. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Located 315 kilometres west of Victoria, Tofino, population 2,000, and neighbouring Ucluelet, population 1,600, are massive tourism destinations, with their rugged coastal beauty and endless beaches. The area explodes with visitors in the summer months, with estimates of 22,000 people in the area on some days in July and August.

The growing list of award-winning restaurants is a product of the many retreats that offer visitors first-class treatment within the velvet embrace of coastal rainforests and roaring waves. But ask May and others who came to Tofino for the chance to kick back on the beach year-round, it is the locals who drive the scene, wanting it

fresh, local and the best.

"Think of Vancouver Island as Europe," said May, who runs the RedCan Gourmet, an open-concept commercial kitchen where customers can interact with the chefs as they create West Coast dishes. "It's a New World Europe in a sense of the different kinds of micro climates and the farms that can grow certain things in



Tim May's fresh ground sirloin burger. THE CANADIAN PRESS

+ IF YOU GO

Hungry?

If you find yourself hungry in Tofino, check out: Red-Can Gourmet and SoBo, Fresh Food From Here and There.

specific areas. That's what Vancouver Island is."

Chef Lisa Ahier, who owns Tofino's SoBo, billed as sophisticated bohemian, agreed it's the locals who created and support the community's top-notch foodie scene.

"I have never seen a town with this few residents that has such a high level, consistently, of cuisine," said Ahier, who started in Tofino in 2003 with a food

truck and now wins awards at her bricks-and-mortar location.

"The people who live here is why I do what I do," she said. "I set up my business 13 years ago for locals and the locals demand quality, the best fuel for their bodies. You can't fool our local clientele. They want good food that makes them feel great."

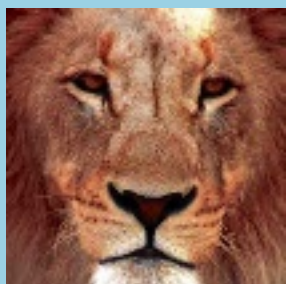
She's seen people who started in her restaurant as dishwashers and food preparation staff fall in love with the industry and open their own restaurants.

"Visitors can expect probably the freshest seafood they'll ever see," said Ahier, who recently published "The SoBo Cookbook."

"We have local people who harvest our gooseneck barnacles. Our oysters just came in 30 minutes ago. There's not a lot of transportation in our food. It's coming directly from the water to here."

May said local chefs pride themselves on working together even though they depend on the same customer base. The Tofino-Ucluelet Culinary Guild, which helps source the freshest and most in-season items for the restaurants, binds the locals, he said. THE CANADIAN PRESS

TRAVEL NOTES FROM AN AFRICAN SAFARI DEAL TO A NICARAGUAN ADVENTURE



African Safari sale

Intrepid Travel is offering 30 per cent off African safari adventures departing before June 30 if you book your trip by April 30. And it's not just two or three; there are more than 20 trips on sale, from seven days to 60: Kilimanjaro and the Serengeti, Victoria Falls and Ngorongoro Crater, Lake Nakuru and the Okavan-

go Delta. Visit IntrepidTravel.com.

Nicaragua

"The Land of Lakes and Volcanoes" is gaining ground on Costa Rica and Panama as the new place to explore, and not just with the younger set looking for a cheap place to surf. Travellers wanting something different than the usual sun-



NICARAGUA TOURISM

spots will revel in the authenticity of Nicaragua. And since the turbulence of the 1970s and '80s, Nicaragua is now one of the safest countries in the region. May to October is the best time to go. Check out VisitNicaragua.us.

Scrubba Wash Bag

This looks like a dry bag, but it's actually a portable wash-

ing gizmo. Just add water, soap and your clothes, roll down the top a few times and clip the ends, expel the air inside, then scrub clothes clean in three minutes with the help of an internal, flexible washboard. \$59 at mec.ca. DOUG WALLACE



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What to do when the city goes dark

Lisa Evans
For Metro

Saturday evening, the city will turn off its lights from 8:30 to 9:30 p.m.

Which begs the question: What to do? The kids may moan and groan at the idea of a night without the TV, computer or smartphone — and parents, too, may wonder what to do with their little ones — there are plenty of activities you can do as a family that will show kids that they don't need electricity to have fun.

Host an Earth Hour street party. Invite the neighbours over for an impromptu Earth Hour bash. Ask everyone to bring a candle and turn out all the lights. Serve up snacks

that don't require power to heat up or cook, such as veggies and hummus and everyone's favourite — chocolate fondue (warmed with a candle). You can even get a little creative and cut up some fruit into the shape of stars and moon slivers aligning with the night's theme.

Star-gaze in the backyard. When was the last time you looked up at the city sky and gazed at the stars? With lights and pollution, it can be difficult to see anything but the moon. Earth Hour is the ideal opportunity to see the night sky. If weather permits, lay out some warm blankets and pillows in your backyard and lay back to gaze at the stars. Grab a book about the constellations and see how many you can find.



In this file photo, Matthew Ellwood, left, then 6, and Kai Sher, then 7, mark Earth Hour with candles in Toronto in March 2013. VINCE TALOTTA / TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Play board games by candlelight. Remember what families did for entertainment before Farmville and Candy Crush? Break out your favourite board games, light some tea lights and have some good old-fashioned fun. Your kids won't even miss their video games and tablets.

Put on a shadow puppet show. Light a candle in front of a blank wall and use your hands to create animal puppets. Kids can guess which animal

appears on the wall. Up the creative ante and make up a story to go along with your hand puppets.

Have a candlelit picnic. Pack some snacks inside a picnic basket and throw a blanket down on the floor for a black-out picnic. Play up the picnic feel by using disposable (and recyclable, of course) forks and plates. Since there's no cooking without electricity, get a raw foods cookbook in advance and

have fun whipping up new raw creations.

Create glow-in-the-dark fun. Transform your living room or kids' bedrooms into glow-in-the-dark caves. Gather some coloured glow sticks, glow-in-the-dark toys or stickers and create your own illuminated space. Take the fun to the bath with glow-in-the-dark bath toys and place some glow-in-the-dark stars around the bathroom to resemble the starry sky.

LIGHTS OFF

The ins and outs of Earth Hour

Earth Hour, celebrated annually around the world, is led by the World Wildlife Fund (WWF) and supported by numerous other non-profit organizations.

While no one expects them to solve all the planet's problems, Earth Hour activities can trigger positive change that goes beyond the hour, says WWF-Canada president and CEO David Miller.

"The true impact of Earth Hour is in everyday actions and decisions," Miller says, "where individuals, businesses, cities and countries are making the necessary changes to protect ourselves and nature from the most devastating impacts of climate change."

The theme of this year's Earth Hour is — you guessed it — climate change. Here's more about the annual event.

This will be the ninth Earth Hour. The first Earth Hour took place in 2007 and involved just Sydney, Australia. Co-founder Andy Ridley and his colleagues hoped that other Australian communities might join in for 2008. It ended up spreading to 35 countries by the second year.

The rules of the game are simple. To mark Earth Hour, you're encouraged to turn off the lights in your homes or workplaces at 8:30 p.m. and leave them off for 60 minutes. You can use candles for light (but go for earth-friendly options, like beeswax or soy).

You should still put safety first. Only "non-essential" lights should be switched off, like the ceiling light in your kitchen (or the Christmas lights you haven't taken down yet). These don't include traffic lights or street-lamps, of course, or night lights in your home if you're heading upstairs to the bathroom. Another safety note: Never leave burning candles unattended.

There's a reason why it's scheduled for late March. During the spring equinox (or autumn equinox, if you're in the southern hemisphere), sunset is most likely to be at about the same time in multiple countries. It means we'll all be in darkness at 8:30 p.m., no matter where we live.

LISA BENDALL/FOR METRO

More than an hour without lights

JENNIFER BARRY
For Metro

Every year, millions of people around the world turn out the lights to raise awareness about climate change.

But Earth Hour is about more than just flicking a switch.

First marked in Sydney, Australia, in 2007, the World Wildlife Fund's symbolic event has evolved into the world's largest grassroots movement for the environment.

Skeptical? Consider this: In 2014 alone, Earth Hour was the force behind more than 60 environmental outcomes including a ban on plastic bags in the Galapagos Islands, the planting of 17 million trees in Kazakhstan, and the installation of renewable energy, fuel-efficient stoves for families in Nepal and Madagascar

"Earth Hour has always been more than just about lights off. It's about people from all walks of life coming together throughout the year to show what they can do to protect the planet," says Andy Ridley, CEO and co-founder of Earth Hour.



Villagers in the Sunderbans, located in the Ganges Delta of Eastern India, show off solar lanterns and panels. WWF projects, like this, take place around the world, extending Earth Hour to a year-long global initiative for planet preservation. COURTESY OF WWF

"People are the lifeblood of the Earth Hour global community," Ridley continues. "They are true beacons of hope, demonstrating what happens when innovation and passion come together to address the biggest challenges of our time."

Success stories from around the globe illustrate how a new phase in the WWF initiative — Earth Hour Blue — is effecting real change. Launched last year, Earth Hour Blue involves crowd-sourcing and crowd-funding to support conservation and sustain-

able development projects around the world. The mass-engagement project works through a mobile-friendly website, a platform to raise funds and get support.

From February to June 2014, 18 crowdfunding projects were launched.

Climate change is not just the issue of the hour, it's the issue of our generation

Sudhanshu Sarronwala,
chair of Earth Hour Global

Last year in Russia, for example, a conservation project helped protect five key species, including the critically endangered Far-Eastern Leopard. In Colombia, money was raised to address pollution in the Amazon rainforest. In China, tens of millions of people engaged in a crowd-sourcing campaign to solve air pollution.

In Australia, where the movement was born, fresh produce and farming communities are the focus.

The Australian campaign, #apetiteforchange, will highlight the need to cut carbon pollution and switch from fossil fuels to renewable energy for the sake of food and farmers.



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Discounts vary by model. 3 0% leasing for 36 months available on 2015 Silverado 1500 Double and Crew Cab 1WT on approved credit to qualified retail customers by GM Financial. Down payment, trade and/or security deposit may be required. Example based on a purchase price of \$29,030 (including \$700 lease credit, \$4,500 manufacturer to dealer delivery credit, a \$1,000 manufacturer to dealer Option Package Discount Credit and a \$885 Owner Cash) for a Silverado 1500 Double Cab 4x4 1WT. Bi-weekly payment is \$149 for 36 months at 0.0% APR, on approved credit to qualified retail customers by GM Financial. Annual kilometre limit of 20,000 km, \$0.16 per excess kilometre. \$450 down payment is required. Payment may vary depending on down payment trade. Total obligation is \$11,622, plus applicable taxes. Option to purchase at lease end is \$17,432. Price and total obligation exclude license, insurance, registration, taxes, dealer fees and optional equipment. Other lease options are available. Dealers are free to set individual prices. Limited time offer which may not be combined with other offers. See your dealer for conditions and details. General Motors of Canada Limited reserves the right to amend or terminate this offer, in whole or in part, at any time without prior notice. 4 Offer available to qualified retail customers in Canada for vehicles from March 3, 2015 – March 31, 2015. 0% purchase financing offered on approved credit by TD Auto Finance Services, Scotiabank® or RBC Royal Bank for 48 months on all new or demonstrator 2015 Silverado 1500 Double and Crew Cab 1WT. Participating lenders are subject to change. Rates from other lenders will vary. Down payment, trade and/or security deposit may be required. Monthly payment and cost of borrowing will vary depending on amount borrowed and down payment/trade. Example: \$40,000 at 0% APR, the monthly payment is \$833.33 for 48 months. Cost of borrowing is \$0, total obligation is \$40,000. Offer is unconditionally interest-free. Freight and air tax (\$100, if applicable) included. Licence, insurance, registration, PPSA, applicable taxes and dealer fees not included. Dealers are free to set individual prices. Limited time offer which may not be combined with certain other offers. GMCL may modify, extend or terminate offers, in whole or in part, at any time without notice. Conditions and limitations apply. See dealer for details. ©Registered trademark of The Bank of Nova Scotia. RBC and Royal Bank are registered trademarks of Royal Bank of Canada.



The Ducks' Simon Despres trips Boston's Milan Lucic Thursday. ELISE AMENDOLA/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

IN BOSTON

Bruins grab a point in loss to Anaheim

Ryan Getzlaf scored 3:09 into overtime to lift the Anaheim Ducks to a 3-2 victory over the Boston Bruins on Thursday night.

Getzlaf, who also assisted on Corey Perry's tying goal late in the third period, beat Bruins goalie Tuukka Rask from the slot with a wrist shot over his shoulder to snap the Ducks' two-game skid.

Perry tied it with 39 seconds remaining in regulation when his shot ricocheted in off a cluster in front of the net. Patrick Maroon also scored for the Ducks.

Loui Eriksson and Ryan Spooner scored for the Bruins, and David Krejci had two assists in his return to the lineup after missing 15 games with a knee injury. Rask finished with 29 saves.

The Bruins and Senators are tied at 85 points for the East's final playoff spot, but Ottawa has a game in hand so still holds the wild card. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

AROUND NHL

Hurricanes 5, Penguins 2

Eric Staal had a goal and two assists in Carolina's win over Pittsburgh.

Kings 3, Islanders 2

Anze Kopitar scored with 4:23 left, and Los Angeles won their third straight beating slumping New York.

Capitals 3, Devils 2

The Capitals got goals from Matt Niskanen, Karl Alzner and Eric Fehr to top New Jersey.

Panthers 4, Leafs 1

Brandon Pirri scored twice as the Florida Panthers kept their slim playoff hopes alive with a win in Toronto.

Sens' Hamburglar loses sizzle vs. N.Y.

NHL

Rangers hand Hammond loss as playoff push stutters

Ottawa netminder Andrew Hammond suffered his first regulation-time loss on Thursday as the Senators fell to the New York Rangers 5-1.

Hammond allowed five goals on 22 shots and is now 14-1-1 to start his NHL career.

Chris Kreider had two goals and an assist as New York also put an end to Ottawa's seven-game winning streak.

Dan Boyle, Mats Zuccarello and Tanner Glass also scored for the Rangers (47-19-7), who now have 101 points and have clinched a playoff berth, while Cam Talbot made 23 saves.

Curtis Lazar had the lone goal for the Senators (37-25-11) as they failed to collect at least one point for just the second time in their past 18 games.

New York's fifth goal knocked Hammond out of the game at 16:02 of the second period.

He was replaced by Chris Driedger, who was making his NHL debut. Driedger finished with 10 saves.



Rangers J.T. Miller and Mats Zuccarello shut down Kyle Turris on Thursday at Canadian Tire Center. ADRIAN WYLD/THE CANADIAN PRESS

NHL On Thursday



The Rangers took a 3-1 lead into the second period on two goals from Kreider and one from Boyle.

Kreider opened the scoring at 12:38 after a fantastic pass

from Derek Stepan.

The Senators tied the game just 19 seconds later when Lazar gained control of a bouncing puck in the Rangers end and beat Talbot with a quick shot from the face-off circle.

Boyle gave the Rangers the lead at 16:40 and with one minute left in the period Kreider got his second goal off a Stepan rebound that bounced straight up after Hammond made the initial save.

At 1:42 of the second period Zuccarello scored on a one-timer for a 4-1 lead before Glass essentially put the Senators to rest as he scored just five seconds after emerging from the penalty box.

The Senators did have a five-on-three advantage for 34 seconds but didn't register a shot. They had just one shot over the final 86 seconds of the Glass minor.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



67's captain Travis Konecny shoots during warmup Thursday, before Game 1 of Ottawa's best-of-seven with the Niagara IceDogs. TREVOR GREENWAY/METRO

OHL PLAYOFFS

Ice Dogs run over in Ottawa



Trevor Greenway
Metro | Ottawa

Dante Salituro had two goals and three assist Thursday night, as the Ottawa 67's downed the Niagara Ice Dogs 8-5 in Game 1 of the OHL playoffs.

Forward Jeremiah Addison also had a strong night with two goals and two assists to help the 67's go up 1-0 in the best-of-seven first round series.

The 67's came on strong, sliding in two goals in the first five minutes past Ice Dogs goalie Brandon Hope, but Niagara wouldn't go away making it a 2-2 game early in the second period.

"It wasn't a typical playoff game," said 67's head coach Jeff Brown following the game. "It was back and forth and wide open. Look at that team, they are a really good team and we are going to have to be at our best if we want to continue winning."

Travis Konecny had a strong outing in his first game back after missing four with an upper body injury, notching a goal and an assist in the win. Brown said Konecny brought more than just his skill back to the team. The captain also brings a lot of leadership to a young team lacking playoff experience.

"It's the energy and it keeps the other team honest," added

Brown. "You have to know when he is on the ice and it adjusts their lines a little bit. He is such a dynamic player that he is one of those guys who is a difference maker."

The third period was all Ottawa with the 67's notching three goals in just over four minutes to go up 6-3. But the Ice Dogs rallied back, with a quick goal by Dunn, to make it 6-4. The 67's kept coming though and made it 7-4 before the Ice Dogs made it 7-5 with just under seven minutes to go in the game.

Salituro added an empty net to put the final nail in the coffin.

Game 2 is Saturday at 1 p.m. at TD Place Arena.

GAME NOTES

Around the rink

Penalty trouble hurt the Ice Dogs, as they racked up 20 penalty minutes in the game. The 67's were only able to capitalize once, but the Ice Dogs couldn't stay on the offensive, as they were down a man for an entire period combined. Ice Dogs star netminder Brandon Hope had a tough game, letting in two goals on four shots in the first period. He had a solid second, but Ottawa came on strong in the third, notching three goals in just over four minutes to set the 67's on course for an 8-5 win.

Duhamel, Radford win gold at worlds

FIGURE SKATING

Canadian pair undefeated since 7th-place finish in Sochi

Canadians Meagan Duhamel and Eric Radford have their perfect season.

Duhamel and Radford held off two Chinese teams in the free skate to capture gold in the pairs event on Thursday at the world figure skating championships.

After a seventh-place finish at the Sochi Games last year, Duhamel, from Lively, Ont., and Radford, from Balmertown, Ont., decided to continue their careers and skate another year — and haven't lost since.

They've won all six international events they've entered this season, including the Grand Prix Finals and Four

Continents.

"Some dreams are so big that you can't even imagine them happening and it's all happening right now," said Radford.

"I could never have imagined it and I can't tell if it's a dream or reality."

Duhamel and Radford, who won bronze at the previous two world championships, were the leaders after the short program.

It is Canada's first pairs title since Jamie Sale and David Pelletier won in 2001.

"This is a very personal victory. Every single victory along the way this season had a very special

meaning," Duhamel said.

Sui Wenjing and Han Cong of China finished second, and 35-year-old veterans Pang Qing and Tong Jian, competing in



We've worked so hard to get here and it's amazing.

Eric Radford

their 16th world championships, took home the bronze.

Pang and Tong, who came out of retirement this year to finish their careers in Shanghai, now have six world medals (two gold, one silver, three bronze) to go with their silver medal from the 2010 Vancouver Olympics.

"I fulfilled (my partner's) wishes to come back to the rink," Tong said,

before adding with a smile, "I certainly hope Pang Qing will not drag me back to the rink once again."

Also, Russian Elizaveta Tuktamysheva landed a triple Axel on her first leap of the figure skating world championships on Thursday, opening up a big lead over the rest of the field after the short program.

"When I landed the triple Axel, I got goosebumps and I thought, 'Is this a dream or did I really just do the triple Axel at the world championships?'" said Tuktamysheva, 18.

Only a handful of women skaters have successfully landed a triple Axel in international competition, among them Tonya Harding, Midori Ito and Mao Asada. Tuktamysheva landed the difficult jump in one of the biggest competitions of her career after only practising it for a couple months.

THE CANADIAN PRESS WITH FILES FROM THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Meagan Duhamel and Eric Radford of Canada skate their way to the gold medal during the pairs free skate at the world figure skating championships in Shanghai on Thursday. JOHANNES EISELE/AFP/GETTY IMAGES



Dalton Pompey of the Blue Jays dives safely into third base past the Phillies' Andre Blanco in Dunedin, Fla., Thursday.

KATHY WILLENS/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

MLB SPRING TRAINING

Jays break out bats after Hamels pulled

Cole Hamels allowed two hits in five scoreless innings during the Philadelphia Phillies' 4-1 loss to the Toronto Blue Jays on Thursday.

A focus of trade speculation, Hamels didn't allow a hit until Kevin Pillar reached on an infield single leading off the fifth. Hamels picked off Pillar, Dalton Pompey tripled to left-centre field and Hamels struck out Jose Reyes.

Hamels, a four-time all-star, struck out four and walked three.

Steve Tolleson hit a grand slam off Ken Giles in the eighth.

+ DEMOTED

Toronto optioned reliever Steve Delabar to Triple-A Buffalo.

"I'm not happy with the move, neither should I be, because I've had a pretty good spring so far," Delabar said.

Blue Jays starter Aaron Sanchez gave up one run, two hits and one walk in 5-1/3 innings. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



IN BRIEF

Chelsea signs captain Terry to contract extension

Captain John Terry will be at Chelsea for at least one more season after earning a contract extension in recognition of his enduring value to the team.

The 34-year-old Terry remains one of Chelsea's most consistent and influential players, helping Jose Mourinho's team establish a six-point lead at the top of the English Premier League. Terry has made 661 appearances since 1998.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Tiger chips in \$10K for university scholarship

Tiger Woods has donated \$10,000 to launch a scholarship fund honouring Charlie Sifford, who broke the colour barrier in golf as the first black PGA Tour member.

The University of Maryland-Eastern Shore announced the gift from Woods on Thursday.

Sifford, who died last month at age 92, won twice on the PGA Tour and was inducted into the World Golf Hall of Fame in 2004.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Morning News

MONDAY to
FRIDAY 5am-10am

1310 News
News. Talk. Sports.

RECIPE Chicken with Red Curry

EAT LIGHT AT HOME

Rose Reisman
rosereisman.com
@rosereisman



I love curry dishes because you can adjust the heat to whatever level your taste buds can handle!

Ready in

Prep time: 10 minutes
Bake time: 11 minutes

Directions

1. Dust chicken with 3 tbsp of flour. In large skillet sprayed with vegetable oil, sauté chicken for 3 minutes or just until no longer pink. Set aside.

2. In the same skillet, add oil and sauté onions, curry paste, ginger and garlic for 3 minutes, then add red bell pepper and sauté for 2 minutes. Set aside.

3. In a bowl, combine coconut milk, 2 tbsp flour, fish sauce and sugar and mix until flour has dissolved. Add to onion mixture along with chicken, and on a medium heat, cook just until sauce has slightly thickened, about 3 minutes.

4. Serve over cooked rice or noodles (if using) and garnish with chopped cashews and cilantro.

Ingredients

• 12 oz boneless, skinless chicken breast, sliced into 1/2-inch wide slices



- 5 tbsp all-purpose flour, divided
- 2 tsp vegetable oil
- 2 cups sliced onions
- 2 tbsp red curry paste or to taste
- 1 tbsp minced ginger
- 1 1/2 tsp minced garlic
- 2 cups sliced red bell peppers
- 1 1/2 cups canned light coconut milk
- 1 tbsp fish sauce
- 1 tsp brown sugar

Garnish

- 1/4 cup toasted chopped cashews
- 3 tbsp chopped cilantro
- 3 cups cooked rice or rice noodles (optional)

Nutrition per serving

- Calories 352
- Protein 38.4 g
- Carbohydrates 18.8 g g
- Fibre 3.1 g
- Total fat 13 g
- Saturated fat 4.9 g
- Cholesterol 250 mg
- Sodium 450 mg

PHOTO: ROSE REISMAN

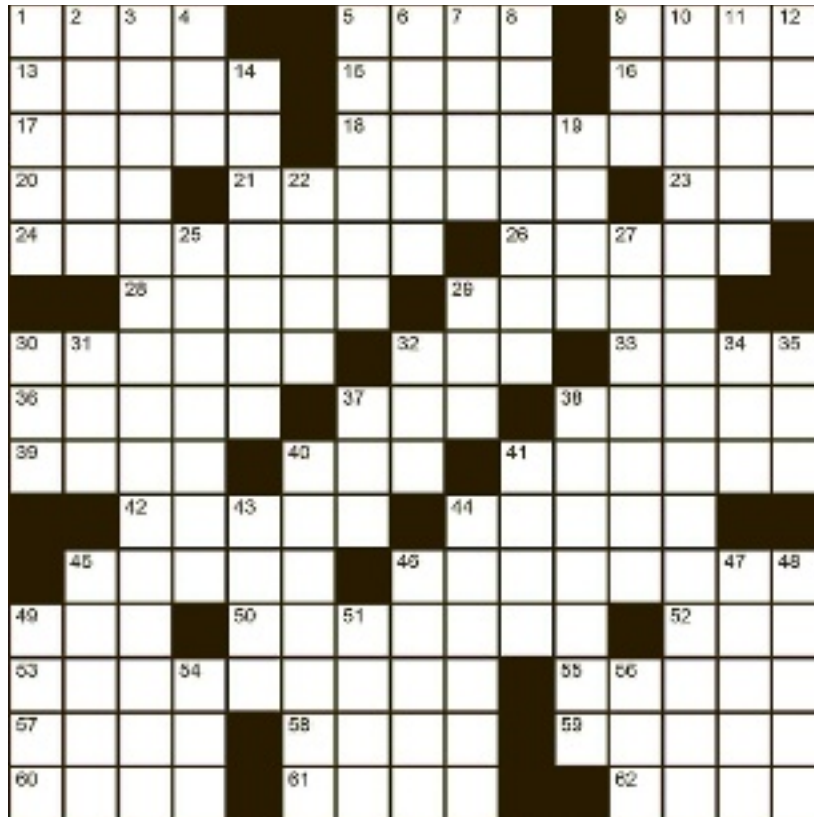
CROSSWORD Canada Across and Down

BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN

ANSWERS ONLINE
metronews.ca

ACROSS

- Canada's historic exports
- British group, with Manfred
- Island: Spanish
- Clark's legendary 1939 movie role
- Mr. Blacc of song
- Irving and Grant
- Place to connect in Chicago
- Circus performer's prop: 2 wds.
- South, in Portugal
- Suspiciously
- Tree of Hawaii
- Michel __, Montreal Canadiens head coach
- Movie mermaid
- Chimney-like
- Stew
- "Dis-Moi, Dis-Moi" chanteuse
- It gets pumped
- Music key, --
- Purport
- Wickedness
- Celebrity chef Guy
- Apportion
- Wear
- Magician
- TV actor Rob
- Actress Ms. Brewster
- He's a helluva guy
- Hamilton's AHL team
- Travel-



- ler's delay
- Canadian singer Ms. Reno
- Horizonta rest
- Those supervising
- Big carrier of blood
- "Game of Thrones" actress Ms. Headey

- Kind of mackerel
- Deep __ (Restaurant appliance)
- Bohemian
- Zest
- Sleep Country Canada products

DOWN

- Decorate the cake
- "Yup."
- Royal LePage worker: 3 wds.
- Water channel, e.g.
- Detective Vic __ (Michael Chiklis' role on "The Shield")

- "Robin Hood" (2010) minstrel, __ A'Dayle
- Midday
- "The Price Is Right" prizes: 2 wds.
- Mr. Somerhalder
- Classic order at Montreal's since-1927 famous eatery

- Dunn's: 4 wds.
- Disinfectant brand
- Between ports
- Rita's __ (Cape Breton's 'steeped'-in-tradition establishment opened by Rita MacNeil in the 1980s)
- Emperor of Rome
- In __ (As originally placed)
- Most pink
- Sort of salt
- Prohibit
- Ancient 1900
- Tact' suffix
- Saloon supply
- Flawed in a way [abbr.]
- Nest: French
- Maritime message
- Ancient statue's modesty preserver: 2 wds.
- "Let's Hear It for the Boy": 1984 hit for __ Williams
- Mr. Disney
- Labels
- Feigns: 2 wds.
- Rescuer
- Yogi of famous quotes
- __ community (Exclusive residences locale)
- Boxes
- 1970 Kinks tune
- Portraitist, Alice __ (b.1900 - d.1984)
- Mr. Romano
- Ball

★ IT'S ALL IN THE STARS by Sally Brompton

♈ Aries March 21 - April 20
If something feels good then just do it. As long as it is moral, it does not matter what others might think about it. You have never been one to let criticism stop you.

♉ Taurus April 21 - May 21
Forget about financial matters and focus on your family. Get things in perspective today and remind yourself that, in the greater scheme of things, money is only bits of paper.

♊ Gemini May 22 - June 21
Make sure you are on the move because the more people you meet, the more opportunities will come your way in the near future. There is also a chance you could meet someone new to love.

♋ Cancer June 22 - July 23
Don't let those who say you are behaving in an illogical manner persuade you to change your ways. What you are doing may look silly to them but from your point of view it makes sense.

♌ Leo July 24 - Aug. 23
Don't take on extra tasks over the next 24 hours. With the commitments you already have you are likely to be on the go from first thing in the morning to last thing at night.

♍ Virgo Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
If you admit you need help today you will be overwhelmed by offers of assistance. But don't take the easy way out and let friends and colleagues do everything for you.

♎ Libra Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
A new relationship will start today or over the weekend. It may or may not be romantic in nature but whatever guise it takes it will be fun. This is also a good time to interact with large groups of people.

♏ Scorpio Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
You will go out of your way to be nice to people today — even with those who have not always been nice to you in the past.

♐ Sagittarius Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
Your generosity knows no bounds: you want to do everything for everyone. Common sense should tell you that isn't actually possible but you will do your best to make a positive difference in the next 24 hours.

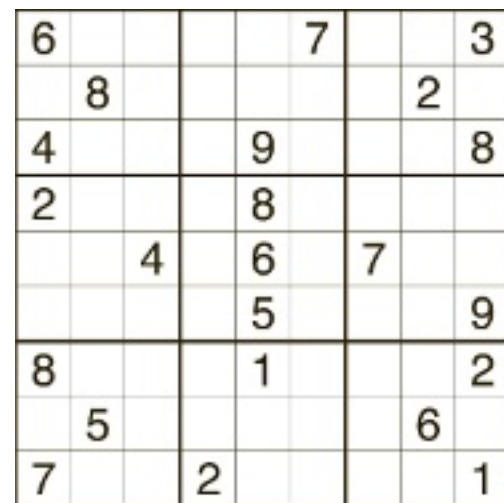
♑ Capricorn Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
The intensity of your emotions could catch you by surprise today, so stay in control and don't over-react. If you do go too far you may be a bit embarrassed later when you realize what was said and done.

♒ Aquarius Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
This is a good day to patch up disputes with loved ones. You will find it easier than usual to admit that you were to blame for what went wrong.

♓ Pisces Feb. 20 - March 20
You will find it difficult to make up your mind about something but that's OK. The planets indicate it will pay to put off a decision about a money matter until early next week.

CONCEPTIS SUDOKU by Dave Green

Every row, column and box contains 1-9



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